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TREATMENT OF EXHAUST HYDROGEN OF FUEL CELL

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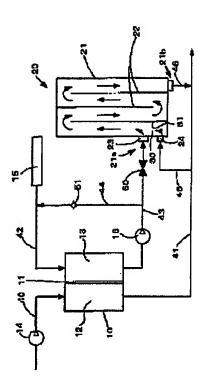
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Abstract of JP2004006183

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a treatment device of exhaust hydrogen that discharges hydrogen to the atmosphere at the concentration of inflammable range or less with a simple structure without using a diluting chamber.

SOLUTION: When a control valve 50 is put in communicating state, the exhaust hydrogen gas on the fuel pole side 13 is introduced into the housing chamber 21 through an exhaust hydrogen gas inlet port 23. Then, the pressure in the first space of the housing chamber 21 increases temporarily. However, by a flow regulating part 31 of the partition wall 30, back flow of the exhaust hydrogen gas introduced into the housing chamber 21 to an exhaust air supply tube 45 is prevented. When the control valve 50 is put in a non-communicating state. the exhaust air introduced from an exhaust air inlet port 24 passes through the flow regulating part 31 of the partition wall 30 and moves the exhaust hydrogen gas to a discharge part 21b in order. Then, the exhaust hydrogen gas is discharged to the vicinity of the air open end of an air exhaust tube 41 from the discharge part 21b through an exhaust hydrogen gas exhaust tube 46, and after being diluted by the exhaust air flowing in the air exhaust tube 41, is discharged to the atmosphere.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]

It is the blowdown hydrogen processor which dilutes the blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently discharged from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell,

While having induction and the derivation section, it is the hold machine which can hold the whole quantity of said blowdown hydrogen gas discharged intermittently. The blowdown hydrogen gas supply way which opens the induction of said hold

The blowdown hydrogen gas supply way which opens the induction of said hold machine for free passage the fuel electrode side of said fuel cell,

The gas supply way for dilution which supplies the gas for dilution regularly, Blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust passage which opens the derivation section of said hold machine, and the predetermined location of said gas supply way for dilution for free passage,

The gas installation way which opens said gas supply way for dilution and induction of said hold machine for free passage in the upstream rather than said predetermined location.

A blowdown hydrogen processor equipped with a control means to control runoff of the blowdown hydrogen gas in said hold machine to said gas installation way.

[Claim 2]

In a blowdown hydrogen processor according to claim 1,

Said gas for dilution is blowdown air discharged from the air pole side of said fuel cell, Said gas supply way for dilution is a blowdown hydrogen processor which is the exhaust passage which discharges the blowdown air discharged from the air pole side of said fuel cell to atmospheric air.

[Claim 3]

In a blowdown hydrogen processor according to claim 1 or 2,

Said induction is a blowdown hydrogen processor equipped with the blowdown hydrogen gas inlet where said blowdown hydrogen gas supply way is connected to the

downstream rather than the gas intake for dilution to which said gas installation way is connected, and its gas intake for dilution.

[Claim 4]

In a blowdown hydrogen processor according to claim 3,

It is the blowdown hydrogen processor which is the septum which has the floating specification part which regulates passage of the blowdown hydrogen gas which permits passage of the gas for dilution supplied from said gas intake for dilution, and is introduced from said blowdown hydrogen gas inlet while classifying said control means into the 1st space which includes said blowdown hydrogen gas inlet for said hold machine, and the 2nd space containing said gas intake for dilution.

[Claim 5]

In a blowdown hydrogen processor according to claim 4,

Said floating specification part is a blowdown hydrogen processor which is the hole or slit formed in said septum.

[Claim 6]

In a blowdown hydrogen processor according to claim 4 or 5,

Said hold machine is a box-like object which equips the interior with the dashboard which forms the passage which leads a fluid to said derivation section from said induction.

Said induction is a blowdown hydrogen processor with which the maximum upstream region of said passage is equipped.

[Claim 7]

In a blowdown hydrogen processor according to claim 4 or 5.

Said hold machine is a tubular object,

It is the blowdown hydrogen processor with which said gas intake for dilution is formed in the end of said tubular object, and said derivation section is formed in the other end of said tubular object.

[Claim 8]

In a blowdown hydrogen processor according to claim 1 or 2.

Said control means is a valve system which switches a free passage and the condition of not being open for free passage for said gas supply way for dilution while being arranged on said gas supply way for dilution,

Said blowdown hydrogen processor is,

The blowdown hydrogen processor equipped with the valve-system controller which switches said gas supply way for dilution to the condition of not being open for free passage, according to said valve system before said blowdown hydrogen gas is discharged intermittently.

[Claim 9]

In a blowdown hydrogen processor according to claim 1 or 2,

Said control means is a valve system which switches a free passage and the condition of not being open for free passage for said gas supply way for dilution while being arranged on said gas supply way for dilution,

Said blowdown hydrogen processor is,

The blowdown hydrogen processor equipped with the valve-system controller which switches the free passage of said gas supply way for dilution, and the condition of not being open for free passage, to the timing of arbitration according to said valve system before said blowdown hydrogen gas is discharged intermittently.

[Claim 10]

In a blowdown hydrogen processor according to claim 9,

Said valve-system controller is a blowdown hydrogen processor which switches the free passage of said gas supply way for dilution, and the condition of not being open for free passage, to the timing of arbitration according to said valve system by said valve system after said blowdown hydrogen gas is discharged intermittently.

[Claim 11]

It is the blowdown hydrogen processor which dilutes the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell.

The dilution section which dilutes said blowdown hydrogen gas,

A blowdown means to make blowdown hydrogen gas discharge with a predetermined time interval from the fuel electrode side of said fuel cell,

A gas supply means for dilution to supply regularly the gas for dilution for diluting said blowdown hydrogen gas to said dilution section,

A delay means to move said said blowdown hydrogen gas held to said dilution section using a part of gas for dilution supplied by said gas supply means for dilution so that only time amount shorter than said predetermined time interval may delay the time amount which said discharged blowdown hydrogen gas moves to said dilution section, while holding said discharged blowdown hydrogen gas,

A blowdown hydrogen processor equipped with a back-migration control means to control that said blowdown hydrogen gas held in said delay means carries out back-migration to said gas supply means for dilution.

[Claim 12]

In a blowdown hydrogen processor according to claim 11,

The amount of supply per time amount of the gas for dilution used by said migration means is a blowdown hydrogen processor in inverse proportion to said predetermined time interval.

[Claim 13]

It is the blowdown hydrogen processor which dilutes the blowdown hydrogen gas

intermittently discharged from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell,

While having induction and the derivation section, it is the hold machine which can hold the whole quantity of said blowdown hydrogen gas discharged intermittently,

The blowdown hydrogen gas supply way which opens said hold machine for free passage the fuel electrode side of said fuel cell,

The gas supply way for dilution which supplies the gas for dilution regularly, Blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust passage which opens the derivation section of said hold machine, and the predetermined location of said gas supply way for dilution for free passage,

The gas installation way which opens said gas supply way for dilution and induction of said hold machine for free passage in the upstream rather than said predetermined location.

The 1st change device which is arranged on said gas installation way and switches said gas installation way to the condition of either a free passage and the condition of not being open for free passage,

The blowdown hydrogen processor which is the control means which controls the change condition of said 1st change device, and is equipped with the control means which switches said 1st change device to the condition of not being open for free passage after said blowdown hydrogen gas is discharged.

[Claim 14]

A blowdown hydrogen processor according to claim 13 is,

While being arranged on said blowdown hydrogen gas supply way, it has the 2nd change device which switches said blowdown hydrogen gas supply way to a free passage condition from the condition of not being open for free passage, intermittently,

Said control means is a blowdown hydrogen processor which switches said 1st change device to a free passage condition after said 2nd change device is switched to the condition of not being open for free passage, while switching said 1st change device to the condition of not being open for free passage, after said 2nd change device was switched to the free passage condition.

[Claim 15]

It is the blowdown hydrogen processor which dilutes the blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently discharged from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell,

While having the 1st and 2nd edges, it is the hold machine which can hold the whole quantity of said blowdown hydrogen gas discharged intermittently,

The blowdown hydrogen gas supply way which opens the abbreviation center section of said hold machine for free passage the fuel electrode side of said fuel cell, The gas supply way for dilution which supplies the gas for dilution regularly,

Blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust passage which opens said 1st edge of said hold machine, and the predetermined location of said gas supply way for dilution for free passage,

A blowdown hydrogen processor equipped with the gas installation way which opens said gas supply way for dilution and said 2nd edge of said hold machine for free passage in the upstream rather than said predetermined location.

[Claim 16]

In the blowdown hydrogen processor which dilutes the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged intermittently using the gas for dilution supplied regularly from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell, it is the hold machine which holds blowdown hydrogen gas temporarily.

The base section which makes a base at the time of installation.

The top-face section which makes a top face at the time of installation,

The hold section which has the internal structure which makes the introduced fluid flow from said base section to said top—face section while being able to hold the whole quantity of said blowdown hydrogen gas discharged intermittently,

Induction which introduces a part of said blowdown hydrogen gas and said gas for dilution into said hold section.

A hold machine equipped with the derivation section which derives said blowdown hydrogen gas held temporarily to said hold outside.

[Claim 17]

In a hold machine according to claim 16,

It is the hold machine with which said induction is arranged near said base section, and said derivation section is arranged near said top-face section.

[Claim 18]

In a hold machine according to claim 16,

Said induction is arranged near said top-face section, and said derivation section is arranged near said induction and said top-face section which counters,

Said hold section is a hold machine which equips the interior with the TWY which leads the fluid introduced into the interior of a hold machine through said induction to said base section.

[Claim 19]

In a hold machine according to claim 17 or 18.

Said hold section is a hold machine which equips the interior with one or more dashboards parallel to said base section while forming the passage which leads a fluid to said top-face section from said base section.

[Claim 20]

In a hold machine according to claim 19,

The hold machine with which said each dashboard is equipped with the fluid passage section which permits passage of blowdown hydrogen gas when the rate of flow of a fluid is low.

[Claim 21]

In a hold machine according to claim 20,

Said fluid passage section is a hold machine which are two or more pores or slits. [Claim 22]

It is the blowdown hydrogen processor which dilutes the blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently discharged from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell,

A hold machine according to claim 16 to 21,

The blowdown hydrogen gas supply way which opens the induction of said hold machine for free passage the fuel electrode side of said fuel cell,

The gas supply way for dilution which supplies the gas for dilution regularly.

Blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust passage which opens the derivation section of said hold machine, and the predetermined location of said gas supply way for dilution for free passage,

The gas installation way which opens said gas supply way for dilution and induction of said hold machine for free passage in the upstream rather than said predetermined location,

A blowdown hydrogen processor equipped with a control means to control runoff of the blowdown hydrogen gas in said hold machine to said gas installation way. [Claim 23]

It is the blowdown hydrogen processor which dilutes the blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently discharged from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell,

While the distance from said 1st and 2nd edges is in abbreviation etc. by making it the 1st and 2nd edges and a list and having blowdown hydrogen induction, it is the hold machine which can hold the whole quantity of said blowdown hydrogen gas discharged intermittently.

The blowdown hydrogen gas supply way which opens the fuel electrode side of said blowdown hydrogen induction and said fuel cell for free passage,

The gas supply way for dilution which supplies the gas for dilution regularly, Blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust passage which opens said 1st edge of said hold machine, and the predetermined location of said gas supply way for dilution for free passage,

A blowdown hydrogen processor equipped with the gas installation way which opens said gas supply way for dilution and said 2nd edge of said hold machine for free passage in the upstream rather than said predetermined location.

[Claim 24]

In a blowdown hydrogen processor according to claim 23,

Said hold machine has two or more dashboards which specify the passage of the introduced fluid,

Spacing of a dashboard [/ near / said / the blowdown hydrogen induction] is a blowdown hydrogen processor larger than spacing of a dashboard [/ 1st and 2nd near / said / the edge].

[Claim 25]

In a blowdown hydrogen processor according to claim 23,

Said hold machine is a blowdown hydrogen processor which has two or more dashboards which specify the passage of the introduced fluid near [said] the 1st and 2nd edges.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]

This invention relates to the suitable blowdown hydrogen processor for a portable type fuel cell especially about the blowdown hydrogen processor which carries out dilution processing of the blowdown hydrogen gas by which intermittent blowdown is carried out from a fuel cell, and is discharged into atmospheric air.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]

In the macromolecule membrane type fuel cell generally used, it has the gas circulation means for re-supplying the gas (blowdown hydrogen gas) containing the hydrogen which was supplied to the fuel electrode side and consumed to a fuel electrode side with the newly supplied hydrogen. Although any components other than hydrogen originally should not be contained in this blowdown hydrogen gas, the actual condition is that components other than hydrogen, such as water generated with the reaction and nitrogen from an air pole side, (impurity) are contained. Therefore, while continuing circulation of blowdown hydrogen gas, the hydrogen concentration supplied to a fuel electrode side will fall with an impurity, and generation efficiency will fall. [0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]

In order to solve this problem, conventionally, blowdown hydrogen gas is periodically discharged besides the gas circulatory system, and processing which makes the original concentration recover the hydrogen concentration by the side of a fuel

electrode is performed. Processing of the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged out of the gas circulatory system poses a problem here. If it is an installation type fuel cell, after using blowdown hydrogen gas as a heat source by including in a cogeneration system or diluting blowdown hydrogen gas with a dilution room, it can be coped with by emitting into atmospheric air. On the other hand, when burning blowdown hydrogen gas, while it was difficult to store the blowdown hydrogen gas of a large quantity from the constraint on a tooth space, and to prepare the dilution room to dilute generally in the case of the portable type fuel cell, and nitrogen oxides were generated, there was a problem that an excess had to be equipped with the burner for combustion etc. [0004]

Moreover, the timing (time interval) which discharges blowdown hydrogen gas from a fuel cell is changed according to the service condition of a fuel cell. When blowdown hydrogen gas is especially discharged with a short time interval, it is required that blowdown hydrogen gas concentration should be promptly reduced to the concentration of under inflammable concentration. Furthermore, when a small amount of blowdown hydrogen gas is discharged from a fuel cell, to reduce blowdown hydrogen gas concentration enough with dilution gas more nearly little than the case where the blowdown hydrogen gas of a large quantity is discharged is desired.

This invention is made in order to solve the above-mentioned technical problem, and it aims at offering the blowdown hydrogen processor which emits hydrogen into atmospheric air by the concentration of under inflammable concentration by the simple configuration, without using a dilution room. Moreover, it aims at reducing enough the blowdown hydrogen gas concentration discharged from a blowdown hydrogen processor with little dilution gas as the blowdown hydrogen capacity introduced into a blowdown hydrogen processor decreases.

[Means for Solving the Problem and its Function and Effect]

[0006]

In order to solve the above-mentioned technical problem, the 1st mode of this invention offers the blowdown hydrogen processor which dilutes the blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently discharged from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell. In the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 1st mode of this invention, the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged intermittently is supplied to a hold machine through the induction of a blowdown hydrogen gas supply way and a hold machine from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell. This hold machine has the volume which can hold the whole quantity of the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged intermittently. A part of gas for dilution is further supplied to the induction of a hold machine from the gas supply way for dilution through a gas installation way. Consequently, the blowdown

hydrogen gas in a hold machine is sent out one by one by the gas for dilution to the derivation section, and is discharged through blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust passage by the gas supply way for dilution to which the gas for dilution is supplied regularly. The blowdown hydrogen gas discharged by the gas supply way for dilution is diluted by the gas for dilution, and is emitted into atmospheric air. The back run to the gas installation way of the blowdown hydrogen gas in a hold machine is controlled by the control means. Moreover, the gas installation way is connected with the gas supply way for dilution in the upstream rather than the predetermined location of the gas supply way for dilution where blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust passage is connected, and blowdown hydrogen gas is not contained in the gas for dilution supplied to a hold room.

[0007]

Since according to the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 1st mode of this invention dilution of blowdown hydrogen gas is performed on the gas supply way for dilution to which the gas for dilution is supplied regularly and the back run of the blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine to a gas installation way is controlled by the control means, hydrogen can be emitted into atmospheric air by the concentration of under inflammable concentration by the simple configuration, without using a dilution room.

[8000]

the 1st voice of this invention — in the blowdown hydrogen processor applied like, the gas supply way for dilution may be exhaust passage which discharges the blowdown air discharged from the air pole side of a fuel cell to atmospheric air, and in this case, the gas for dilution serves as blowdown air discharged from the air pole side of a fuel cell, and can make the configuration of a blowdown hydrogen processor simpler. [0009]

The induction of a hold machine may be equipped with the blowdown hydrogen gas inlet where a blowdown hydrogen gas supply way is connected to the downstream rather than the gas intake for dilution to which a gas installation way is connected, and its gas intake for dilution in the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 1st mode of this invention. In this case, the blowdown hydrogen gas in a hold machine can be efficiently moved to the derivation section of a hold machine by the gas for dilution supplied from the gas intake for dilution.

[0010]

the 1st voice of this invention — it may be the septum have the floating specification part which regulates passage of the blowdown hydrogen gas which a control means permits passage of the gas for dilution supplied from the gas intake for dilution while classifying into the 1st space which includes a blowdown hydrogen gas inlet for a hold

machine, and the 2nd space containing the gas intake for dilution in the blowdown hydrogen processor which applies like, and is introduced from a blowdown hydrogen gas inlet. In addition, a floating specification part may be the hole or slit formed in the septum. While the blowdown hydrogen gas in a hold machine can be moved by the gas for dilution supplied from the gas intake for dilution in this case, the blowdown hydrogen gas introduced from the blowdown hydrogen gas inlet can prevent flowing backwards from the gas intake for dilution to the exterior of a hold machine. [0011]

In the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 1st mode of this invention, a hold machine is a box-like object which equips the interior with the dashboard which forms the passage which leads a fluid to the derivation section from induction, and the maximum upstream region of passage may be equipped with induction. It becomes easy in this case to lead the fluid in a hold machine to the derivation section from induction one by one. Or a hold machine is a tubular object, the gas intake for dilution may be formed in the end of a tubular object, and the derivation section may be formed in the other end of a tubular object. It becomes easier in this case, when a blowdown hydrogen processor is carried in a car to arrange a hold machine efficiently. [0012]

In the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 1st mode of this invention, while a control means is arranged on the gas supply way for dilution, you may be the valve system which switches a free passage and the condition of not being open for free passage for the gas supply way for dilution, and may have the valve-system controller with which a blowdown hydrogen processor switches the gas supply way for dilution to the condition of not being open for free passage, according to a valve system before blowdown hydrogen gas is discharged further intermittently. In this case, the back run of the blowdown hydrogen gas from a hold machine to the gas supply way for dilution can be prevented more certainly.

[0013]

In the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 1st mode of this invention said control means You may be the valve system which switches a free passage and the condition of not being open for free passage for said gas supply way for dilution while being arranged on said gas supply way for dilution. Further, said blowdown hydrogen processor may be equipped with the valve-system controller which switches the free passage of said gas supply way for dilution, and the condition of not being open for free passage, to the timing of arbitration according to said valve system controller may switch the free passage of said gas supply way for dilution, and the condition of not being open for free passage, to the timing of arbitration according to said valve.

system by said valve system, after said blowdown hydrogen gas is discharged intermittently.

[0014]

Since a turbulent flow can be generated in a hold machine by fluctuating the flow rate of the gas for dilution inside a hold machine according to the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 1st mode of this invention, mixing with blowdown hydrogen gas and the gas for dilution can be promoted.

[0015]

The 2nd mode of this invention offers the blowdown hydrogen processor which dilutes the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell. The blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 2nd mode of this invention The dilution section which dilutes blowdown hydrogen gas, and a blowdown means to make blowdown hydrogen gas discharge with a predetermined time interval from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell, While holding a gas supply means for dilution to supply regularly the gas for dilution for diluting blowdown hydrogen gas to the dilution section, and the discharged blowdown hydrogen gas So that only time amount shorter than a predetermined time interval may delay the time amount which the discharged blowdown hydrogen gas moves to the dilution section A part of gas for dilution supplied by the gas supply means for dilution is used. It is characterized by having a delay means to move the blowdown hydrogen gas held to the dilution section, and a back-migration control means to control that the blowdown hydrogen gas held in the delay means carries out back-migration to the gas supply means for dilution.

[0016]

According to the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 2nd mode of this invention, a part of gas for dilution supplied by the gas supply means for dilution is used. It has a delay means by which only time amount shorter than a predetermined time interval delays the transit time to the dilution section of the held blowdown hydrogen gas. Moreover, since it has a back-migration control means to control that the blowdown hydrogen gas held in the delay means carries out back-migration to the gas supply means for dilution, hydrogen can be emitted into atmospheric air by the concentration of under inflammable concentration by the simple configuration, without using a dilution room.

[0017]

In the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 2nd mode of this invention, the amount of supply per time amount of the gas for dilution used by the migration means may be in inverse proportion to a predetermined time interval. When a predetermined time interval is short, it can respond by making the amount of supply of the gas for dilution increase.

[0018]

The 3rd mode of this invention offers the blowdown hydrogen processor which dilutes the blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently discharged from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell. The blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 3rd mode of this invention The hold machine which can hold the whole quantity of the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged intermittently while having induction and the derivation section, The blowdown hydrogen gas supply way which opens a hold machine for free passage the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell, and the gas supply way for dilution which supplies the gas for dilution regularly, It sets to the upstream rather than the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust passage which opens the derivation section of a hold machine, and the predetermined location of the gas supply way for dilution for free passage, and a predetermined location. The gas installation way which opens the gas supply way for dilution, and the induction of a hold machine for free passage, and the 1st change device which is arranged on a gas installation way and switches a gas installation way to the condition of either a free passage and the condition of not being open for free passage, It is the control means which controls the change condition of the 1st change device, and after blowdown hydrogen gas is discharged, it is characterized by having the control means which switches the 1st change device to the condition of not being open for free passage.

[0019]

Since according to the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 3rd mode of this invention the gas installation way which switches the 1st change device to the condition are not open for free passage, and opens the gas-supply way for dilution and the induction of a hold machine for free passage is changed into the condition are not open for free passage after blowdown hydrogen gas is discharged, the blowdown hydrogen gas in a hold machine flows backwards to the gas-supply way for dilution through a gas installation way at the beginning [of blowdown hydrogen gas] of blowdown. On the other hand, from a hold machine, the gas for dilution held is discharged from blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust passage on the gas supply way for dilution. Therefore, also while the gas for dilution is discharged on the gas supply way for dilution, dilution of blowdown hydrogen gas can be performed and the time amount taken to complete dilution of the whole quantity of the discharged blowdown hydrogen gas can be shortened. Furthermore, the volume of a hold machine can be made small. [0020] Further, while the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 3rd mode of this invention is arranged on the blowdown hydrogen gas supply way It has the 2nd change device which switches a blowdown hydrogen gas supply way to a free passage condition from the condition of not being open for free passage, intermittently. A control means After the 2nd change device was switched to the free passage

condition, while switching the 1st change device to the condition of not being open for free passage, after the 2nd change device is switched to the condition of not being open for free passage, the 1st change device may be switched to a free passage condition.

[0021]

The 4th mode of this invention offers the blowdown hydrogen processor which dilutes the blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently discharged from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell. The blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 4th mode of this invention. The hold machine which can hold the whole quantity of the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged intermittently while having the 1st and 2nd edges, The blowdown hydrogen gas supply way which opens the abbreviation center section of the hold machine for free passage the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell, it sets to the upstream rather than the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust passage which opens for free passage the gas supply way for dilution which supplies the gas for dilution regularly, and the 1st edge of a hold machine and the predetermined location of the gas supply way for dilution, and a predetermined location. It is characterized by having the gas installation way which opens the gas supply way for dilution, and the 2nd edge of a hold machine for free passage.

[0022]

According to the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 4th mode of this invention, since the blowdown hydrogen gas supply way is connected to the abbreviation center section of the hold machine, the gas for dilution in a hold machine is discharged through a gas installation way and blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust passage on the gas supply way for dilution at the beginning [of blowdown hydrogen gas] of blowdown. Therefore, without having the change means which switches the free passage of a gas installation way, and the condition of not being open for free passage to a gas installation way, the gas for dilution which exists in a hold machine can be promptly discharged out of a hold machine, and the time amount which blowdown hydrogen gas moves to blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust passage can be shortened. Therefore, the time amount taken to complete dilution of the whole quantity of the discharged blowdown hydrogen gas can be shortened.

[0023]

The 5th mode of this invention offers the hold machine which holds blowdown hydrogen gas temporarily in the blowdown hydrogen processor which dilutes the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged intermittently using the gas for dilution supplied regularly from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell. While the hold machine concerning the 5th mode of this invention can hold the base section which makes a base at the time of installation, the top-face section which makes a top face at the time of

installation, and said whole quantity of blowdown hydrogen gas discharged intermittently The hold section which has the internal structure which makes the introduced fluid flow from said base section to said top—face section, it is characterized by having the induction which introduces a part of said blowdown hydrogen gas and said gas for dilution into said hold section, and the derivation section which derives said blowdown hydrogen gas held temporarily to said hold outside.

[0024]

Since it has the internal structure which makes the introduced fluid flow from the base section to the top-face section according to the hold machine concerning the 5th mode of this invention, the light blowdown hydrogen gas of specific gravity can be held temporarily, using the volume of the hold section efficiently.

[0025]

In the hold machine concerning the 5th mode of this invention, said induction may be arranged near said base section, and said derivation section may be arranged near said top-face section. By the gas for dilution introduced to the hold section from the induction similarly arranged near the base section, one by one, the blowdown hydrogen gas which was introduced to the hold section from the induction arranged near the base section in this case is led to the top-face section, and is drawn from the derivation section arranged near the top-face section in the hold section exterior. [0026]

the 5th voice of this invention — in the hold machine applied like, said induction is arranged near said top-face section, said derivation section is arranged near said induction and said top-face section which counters, and said hold section may equip the interior with the TWY which leads the fluid introduced into the interior of a hold machine through said induction to said base section. In this case, the blowdown hydrogen gas and the gas for dilution which were introduced can be drawn irrespective of the arrangement location of induction to the base section of the hold section. [0027]

the 5th voice of this invention — in the hold machine applied like, said hold section may equip the interior with one or more dashboards parallel to said base section while forming the passage which leads a fluid to said top—face section from said base section. Since the passage of a fluid can be formed inside the hold section with a dashboard in this case, while being able to hold blowdown hydrogen gas temporarily, using the volume of the hold section efficiently, the held blowdown hydrogen gas can be led to the top—face section from the base section one by one by the gas for dilution. [0028]

the 5th voice of this invention -- in the hold machine applied like, when the rate of

flow of a fluid is low to said each dashboard, it may be equipped with the fluid passage section which permits passage of blowdown hydrogen gas, and said fluid passage sections may be two or more pores or slits. Since blowdown hydrogen gas flows from the base section one by one to the top-face section according to the passage formed by the dashboard when the rate of flow of the fluid containing the blowdown hydrogen gas introduced into the hold section by having this configuration is high, the blowdown hydrogen gas held in the hold section can be emitted into atmospheric air by the concentration of under inflammable concentration. On the other hand, since it flows mixing blowdown hydrogen gas with the air inside a hold machine from the base section to the top-face section through the fluid passage section when the rate of flow of the blowdown hydrogen gas (fluid) introduced into the hold section is low, the hydrogen concentration discharged from the derivation section can be reduced rather than the case where the rate of flow of blowdown hydrogen gas is high. Therefore, the blowdown hydrogen gas concentration discharged from a hold machine can be enough reduced with little dilution gas as the blowdown hydrogen capacity introduced into a hold machine decreases.

[0029]

The 6th mode of this invention offers the blowdown hydrogen processor which dilutes the blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently discharged from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell. The blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 6th mode of this invention the 5th voice of this invention — with the blowdown hydrogen gas supply way which opens for free passage the induction of one which starts like of hold machines, and the fuel electrode side of said fuel cell and said hold machine it sets to the upstream rather than the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust passage which opens for free passage the gas supply way for dilution which supplies the gas for dilution regularly, and the derivation section of said hold machine and the predetermined location of said gas supply way for dilution, and said predetermined location. It is characterized by having the gas installation way which opens said gas supply way for dilution and induction of said hold machine for free passage, and a control means to control runoff of the blowdown hydrogen gas in said hold machine to said gas installation way.

[0030]

In processing blowdown hydrogen gas, since it has one concerning the 5th mode of this invention of hold machines, the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 6th mode of this invention can do so the operation effectiveness brought about with the hold vessel concerning the 5th mode of this invention.

[0031]

The 7th mode of this invention offers the blowdown hydrogen processor which dilutes the blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently discharged from the fuel electrode side of a fuel cell. The blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 7th mode of this invention While the distance from said 1st and 2nd edges is in abbreviation etc. by making it the 1st and 2nd edges and a list and having blowdown hydrogen induction The hold machine which can hold the whole quantity of said blowdown hydrogen gas discharged intermittently, The blowdown hydrogen gas supply way which opens the fuel electrode side of said blowdown hydrogen induction and said fuel cell for free passage. It sets to the upstream rather than the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust passage which opens for free passage the gas supply way for dilution which supplies the gas for dilution regularly, and said 1st edge of said hold machine and the predetermined location of said gas supply way for dilution, and said predetermined location. It is characterized by having the gas installation way which opens said gas supply way for dilution and said 2nd edge of said hold machine for free passage.

[0032]

the 7th voice of this invention — according to the blowdown hydrogen processor applied like — the distance from the 1st and 2nd edges — abbreviation — since it has the hold machine which has equal blowdown hydrogen induction, the time amount taken to shorten a travel required since blowdown hydrogen gas is discharged in the hold machine exterior, and to complete dilution of the whole quantity of the discharged blowdown hydrogen gas can be shortened. Moreover, the power demanded in order to reduce the dilution gas flow rate for diluting blowdown hydrogen gas and to supply dilution gas can be reduced as the blowdown hydrogen capacity introduced into a blowdown hydrogen processor decreases, since the peak of the blowdown hydrogen gas concentration which dilution of blowdown hydrogen gas is permitted at the beginning [of blowdown hydrogen gas / introductory], and is discharged in atmospheric air can be reduced. Moreover, the blowdown hydrogen gas concentration discharged from a blowdown hydrogen processor can be enough reduced with little dilution gas.

[0033]

the 7th voice of this invention — in the blowdown hydrogen processor applied like, said hold machine may have two or more dashboards which specify the passage of the introduced fluid, and its spacing of a dashboard [/ near / said / the blowdown hydrogen induction] may be larger than spacing of a dashboard [/ 1st and 2nd near / said / the edge]. Or said hold machine may have two or more dashboards which specify the passage of the introduced fluid near [said] the 1st and 2nd edges. By having this configuration, the peak value of the hydrogen concentration which permits dilution (diffusion) of blowdown hydrogen gas further near the blowdown hydrogen induction, and is discharged from a blowdown hydrogen processor can be reduced further, floating of blowdown hydrogen gas can be regulated near the 1st and 2nd

edges, and it can discharge to the hold machine exterior.

[0034]

the 1st thru/or the 4th, 6th, and 7th voice of above-mentioned this invention — the blowdown hydrogen processor applied like and the 5th voice of this invention — the hold machine applied like — the above-mentioned voice — and also like — the voice of an approach — even if it depends like, it may realize.

[0035]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

Hereafter, the blowdown hydrogen processor applied to this invention based on some examples is explained, referring to a drawing.

- The 1st example:

The fuel cell structure of a system containing the blowdown hydrogen processor applied to the 1st example with reference to <u>drawing 1</u> and <u>drawing 2</u> is explained.

Drawing 1 is the block diagram showing the outline configuration of the fuel cell system containing the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 1st example.

Drawing 2 is the explanatory view showing other hold machines which may be applied to the blowdown processor concerning the 1st example.

[0036]

The fuel cell system was divided roughly and equipped with the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 which dilutes and emits the blowdown hydrogen discharged from the fuel cell 10 which generates power by using hydrogen as a fuel, and a fuel cell into atmospheric air. The blowdown hydrogen processor 20 concerning the 1st example is characterized by controlling the hydrogen concentration emitted into atmospheric air by emitting the whole quantity of blowdown hydrogen gas into atmospheric air gradually between intermittent time amount under to the inflammable concentration of hydrogen paying attention to facing processing the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged from a fuel cell 10, and blowdown hydrogen gas being discharged intermittently.

[0037]

It is the fuel cell of a solid-state macromolecule membrane type, and the solid-state poly membrane 11 was inserted and the fuel cell 10 is equipped with the air pole 12 to which air is supplied, and the fuel electrode 13 with which hydrogen is supplied. The hydrogen supplied to the fuel electrode 13 of a fuel cell 10 is separated into a hydrogen ion and a charge by the catalyst on the solid-state poly membrane 11. A hydrogen ion passes the solid-state poly membrane 11, and moves to an air pole 12, and, on the other hand, the separated charge moves to an air pole 12 through an external circuit. In an air pole 12, the supplied air (oxygen which acts as an oxidizer), the hydrogen ion which reached the air pole 12 through the solid-state poly membrane 11, and a charge react, and water is generated.

÷:

[0038]

The air pressurized by the air compressor 14 is supplied to an air pole 12 through the air supply tubing 40, and the air (blowdown air) used by the air pole 12 is emitted into atmospheric air through the air exhaust pipe 41 (gas supply way for dilution). In addition, blowdown air is always flowing the inside of the air exhaust pipe 41 during operation of a fuel cell 10.

[0039]

The hydrogen stored under the application-of-pressure condition in the hydrogen reservoir 15 is supplied to a fuel electrode 13 through the hydrogen supply pipe 42. The hydrogen which was not consumed with a fuel electrode 13 is supplied to the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 through the hydrogen exhaust pipe (blowdown hydrogen gas supply way) 43 as blowdown hydrogen gas. The control valve 50 which switches the hydrogen exhaust pipe 43 to either a free passage and the condition of not being open for free passage is arranged, and floating of the blowdown hydrogen gas to the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 is controlled by the hydrogen exhaust pipe 43.

[0040]

The hydrogen circulation tubing 44 is connected to the hydrogen exhaust pipe 43 rather than the control valve 50 in the location of fuel cell 10 approach. In a fuel electrode 13, the whole quantity is not consumed for the hydrogen supplied from the hydrogen reservoir 15 through the hydrogen supply pipe 42. Then, supplying the new hydrogen which generally supplies again the hydrogen which was not consumed to a fuel electrode 13, and is equivalent to the consumed hydrogen content is performed. In this example, the control valve 50 is changed to the condition of not being open for free passage, and the reclosing of the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged from the fuel electrode 13 is usually carried out to a fuel electrode 13 through the hydrogen circulation tubing 44 with the pump 16 for circulation. From the hydrogen reservoir 15, the new hydrogen equivalent to the partial pressure of the consumed hydrogen is supplied to a fuel electrode 13. In addition, the hydrogen circulation tubing 44 is equipped with the check valve 51 for preventing an inflow (back run) in the hydrogen circulation tubing 44 of the hydrogen supplied from the hydrogen reservoir 15. [0041]

Usually, impurities penetrated from the air pole 12 to the fuel electrode 13 other than intact hydrogen through the solid-state poly membrane 11, such as generation water and nitrogen, are contained in blowdown hydrogen gas. If the blowdown hydrogen gas containing this impurity is repeated and it supplies to a fuel electrode 13, the hydrogen concentration in a fuel electrode 13 will fall, and the generation efficiency of a fuel cell 10 will fall. Then, processing which permutes a control valve 50 with a fixed time

interval, and permutes the gas of a switch and a fuel electrode 13 by the free passage condition from hydrogen is performed. A control valve 50 is once switched to a free passage condition for 2 seconds at 30 seconds.

[0042]

The blowdown hydrogen processor 20 is equipped with the hold machine 21 of the box-like object which can hold the whole quantity of the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged intermittently, as it is equipment for delaying the time amount required in order to emit the whole quantity of the blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently discharged through the hydrogen exhaust pipe 43 into atmospheric air, for example, is shown in drawing 1. Or you may have tubing-like hold machine 21' which can hold the whole quantity of the blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently discharged as shown in drawing 2. The hold machine 21 is expressed with drawing 1 with the flat-surface sectional view. The hold machine 21 has derivation section 21b which discharges induction 21a and blowdown hydrogen gas which introduce blowdown hydrogen gas. and blowdown hydrogen gas is turned to derivation section 21b from induction 21a. and one by one, the interior of the hold machine 21 is equipped with the dashboard 22 so that it may be made to flow. That is, the fluid introduced into the hold machine 21 from induction 21a by induction 21a's becoming the upstream and derivation section 21b becoming the downstream is discharged by the introduced order from derivation section 21b.

[0043]

The upstream is equipped with the blowdown air—intake 24 at induction 21a of the hold machine 21, respectively rather than the blowdown hydrogen gas inlet 23 and the blowdown hydrogen gas inlet 23. The hydrogen exhaust pipe 43 is connected to the blowdown hydrogen gas inlet 23, and the blowdown air supply tubing 45 which branched from the air exhaust pipe 41 is connected to the blowdown air—intake 24. On the other hand, the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46 which discharges the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged from derivation section 21b to the air exhaust pipe 41 is connected to derivation section 21b of the hold machine 21, and the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged from derivation section 21b to the air exhaust pipe 41 is diluted by less than 4% of concentration with the blowdown air which flows the inside of the air exhaust pipe 41. In addition, since the blowdown air supply tubing 45 is connected with the air exhaust pipe 41 in the upstream rather than the end location (predetermined location) where the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46 is connected, blowdown hydrogen gas is not contained in the blowdown air supplied to the hold machine 21 through the blowdown air supply tubing 45.

[0044]

Between the blowdown hydrogen gas inlet 23 and the blowdown air-intake 24, while

classifying into the 1st space which includes the blowdown hydrogen gas inlet 23 for the hold machine 21, and the 2nd space containing the blowdown air—intake 24, the septum 30 is arranged considering the blowdown hydrogen gas supplied in the hold machine 21 flowing backwards to the blowdown air supply tubing 45 as a control means to control and prevent. The septum 30 has the floating specification part 31 which passes only the fluid which has the rate of flow below the rate of flow of the blowdown air supplied from the blowdown air—intake 24.

[0045]

With reference to <u>drawing 1</u>, <u>drawing 3</u> - <u>drawing 5</u>, the principle of dilution of the blowdown hydrogen gas in the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 concerning the 1st example is explained. <u>Drawing 3</u> - <u>drawing 5</u> are the flat-surface sectional views showing typically the situation of floating of the blowdown hydrogen gas in the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 (hold machine 21).

[0046]

In the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 concerning the 1st example, the hold machine 21 has volume of 6l., blowdown air flows the inside of the air exhaust pipe 41 by the 1000l. rate of flow for /, blowdown hydrogen gas is supplied in the hold machine 21 by the rate of flow for 6l. / 2 seconds, and the rear-spring-supporter control valve 50 is switched to a free passage condition in 2 seconds at intervals of 30 seconds. By the intermittent time amount which has the blowdown hydrogen capacity which should be permuted, and a control valve 50 in the condition of not being open for free passage, in order for decision **** to miniaturize the hold machine 21, as for the rate of flow of the blowdown hydrogen capacity which should be permuted by the capacity of the hold machine 21 is mostly in agreement, and it corresponds by this example.

[0047]

Once a control valve 50 is placed by the rear-spring-supporter free passage condition in 2 seconds at 30 seconds, the blowdown hydrogen gas by the side of a fuel electrode 13 will be introduced in the hold machine 21 through the blowdown hydrogen gas inlet 23, and as shown in <u>drawing 3</u>, the inside of the hold machine 21 will be filled by the introduced blowdown hydrogen gas. Since the pressure of the 1st space (space including the blowdown hydrogen gas inlet 23) of the hold machine 21 increases temporarily at this time, we are anxious about floating (back run) of the blowdown hydrogen gas to the 2nd space (space containing the blowdown air-intake 24) and blowdown air supply tubing 45 through the floating specification part 31 of a septum 30 of the hold machine 21. On the other hand, in this example, since floating of blowdown hydrogen gas was regulated, and floating of blowdown air has set up the pressure loss of the floating specification part 31 so that it may approve, the

blowdown hydrogen gas introduced into the hold machine 21 does not flow backwards to the blowdown air supply tubing 45.

[0048]

Since it is necessary to supply 6l. blowdown air in the hold machine 21 while [30 seconds] the control valve 50 is put on the condition of not being open for free passage, at this example, blowdown air must be supplied in the hold machine 21 from the blowdown air supply tubing 45 by the at least 12l. rate of flow for /. On the other hand, blowdown hydrogen gas is introduced in the hold machine 21 in 6l. / 2 seconds, i.e., the 180l. rate of flow for /. Therefore, the pressure loss in the floating specification part 31 should just be set up so that the passage of a fluid which has about 12l. [/minute] rate of flow may be permitted.

[0049]

If the control valve 50 in a free passage condition is put on the condition of not being open for free passage, as shown in <u>drawing 4</u> and <u>drawing 5</u>, the floating specification part 31 of a septum 30 is passed, and the blowdown air introduced from the blowdown air—intake 24 will turn blowdown hydrogen gas to derivation section 21b, and will move it one by one (it extrudes). Soon, all the blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 21 is permuted by blowdown air.

[0050]

The blowdown hydrogen gas discharged from derivation section 21b is discharged through the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46 near the atmospheric-air open end of the air exhaust pipe 41 (predetermined location). The blowdown hydrogen gas discharged by the air exhaust pipe 41 is diluted by the blowdown air which flows the air exhaust pipe 41, and is emitted into atmospheric air.

[0051]

In the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 concerning this example, the back run to the blowdown air supply tubing 45 and the air exhaust pipe 41 of blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 21 is controlled and prevented by having the septum 30 which has the floating specification part 31. Therefore, the hydrogen concentration in the blowdown air which flows the air exhaust pipe 41 is 0%, and the hydrogen concentration in the blowdown air discharged in atmospheric air from the air exhaust pipe 41 by the 1000l. rate of flow for /becomes about 1.2% at the maximum.

Consequently, the hydrogen concentration in blowdown air can be held down to less than 4% of concentration which is the minimum of the inflammable range of hydrogen. [0052]

The configuration of the floating specification part 31 which a septum 30 has is explained with reference to <u>drawing 6</u> – <u>drawing 9</u>. <u>Drawing 6</u> is the explanatory view showing the 1st gestalt of the floating specification part with which a blowdown

hydrogen processor is equipped. <u>Drawing 7</u> is the explanatory view showing the 2nd gestalt of the floating specification part with which a blowdown hydrogen processor is equipped. <u>Drawing 8</u> is the explanatory view showing the 3rd gestalt of the floating specification part with which a blowdown hydrogen processor is equipped. <u>Drawing 9</u> is the explanatory view showing the 4th gestalt of the floating specification part with which a blowdown hydrogen processor is equipped.

[0053]

As a configuration of the floating specification part 31, the hole 32 (orifice) shown in drawing 6, the single slit 33 shown in drawing 7, two or more slits 34 shown in drawing 8, and the mesh hole 35 shown in drawing 9 are raised as instantiation. It is desirable that blowdown air spreads round the passage cross section of blowdown hydrogen gas at homogeneity from a viewpoint which extrudes the blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 21 from derivation section 21b one by one with the blowdown air supplied from the blowdown air—intake 24 (it is made to discharge), for example, the septum 30 equipped with the mesh hole 35 shown in drawing 9 is suitable. In addition, although a septum 30 is a rectangle configuration in the example of drawing 6 to drawing 9, it cannot be overemphasized that configurations, such as circular and a triangle, may be suitably taken according to the floating cross section of the hold machine 21.

[0054]

According to the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 concerning the 1st example, as explained above, it has the hold machine 21 which can hold the whole quantity of the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged from a fuel cell 10, and while making the blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 21 discharge from the hold machine 21 one by one using the blowdown air discharged from the air pole 12 of a fuel cell 10, blowdown hydrogen gas can be diluted. Therefore, after diluting blowdown hydrogen gas, without having a mass dilution room for diluting blowdown hydrogen, and a burner for burning blowdown hydrogen, it can emit into atmospheric air. Since the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 concerning the 1st example does not need to be equipped with a dilution room, it is suitable for the mobile in which constraint of a loading tooth space contains a large car etc. especially.

[0055]

Although floating of blowdown air permits the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 concerning the 1st example between the blowdown hydrogen gas inlet 23 which introduces blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 21, and the blowdown air-intake 24 which adopts blowdown air, floating of blowdown hydrogen gas is equipped with the septum 30 which has the floating specification part 31 to regulate. The blowdown air discharged from an air pole 12 is used. The blowdown hydrogen gas

in the hold machine 21 therefore, one by one Also in case it is made to discharge from the hold machine 21, while becoming possible to reduce more the hydrogen concentration which the blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 21 does not flow backwards to the air exhaust pipe 41 through the blowdown air—intake 24, and is discharged in atmospheric air Fluctuation of the hydrogen concentration discharged in atmospheric air can be controlled.

[0056]

According to the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 concerning the 1st example, it can prevent that the blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 21 flows backwards to the air exhaust pipe 41 through the blowdown air—intake 24, without using dynamic floating regulation means, such as a control valve. Moreover, since blowdown hydrogen gas is diluted using the blowdown air discharged from an air pole 12, there is also an advantage that it is not necessary to have Blois for newly supplying the gas for dilution for the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 etc. [0057]

- The 2nd example:

The blowdown hydrogen processor 60 applied to the 2nd example with reference to drawing 10 and drawing 11 is explained. Drawing 10 is the outline block diagram of the blowdown hydrogen processor 60 concerning the 2nd example. Drawing 11 is a timing diagram which shows the timing of the 1st solenoid valve and the 2nd solenoid valve of operation. In addition, since the outline configuration of a fuel cell system is the same as that of the fuel cell system explained in the 1st example, it gives the same sign to the same component, and omits the explanation. Moreover, among drawing 10, the hold machine 61 is expressed with the flat-surface sectional view, a continuous line expresses the flow of blowdown air and a broken line expresses the flow of blowdown hydrogen gas.

[0058]

The blowdown hydrogen processor 60 concerning the 2nd example is equipped with the dashboard 62 which regulates the flow of the fluid in the box-like hold machine 61 and hold machine 61 interior. Blowdown hydrogen is supplied to the hold machine 61 through the hydrogen exhaust pipe 43, and the hydrogen exhaust pipe 43 is equipped with the 1st solenoid valve 52 into which blowdown hydrogen gas is made to introduce to the hold machine 61 intermittently. The blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 61 is discharged through the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46 near the atmospheric-air open end of the air exhaust pipe 41 (predetermined location). Blowdown air is supplied to the hold machine 61 through the blowdown air supply tubing 45, and the blowdown air supply tubing 45 is equipped with the 2nd solenoid valve 53 which prevents the back run of the blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold

machine 61. The switching action of a valve is controlled by the control unit which does not illustrate the 1st and 2nd solenoid valves 52 and 53.
[0059]

The blowdown hydrogen processor 60 concerning the 2nd example holds the whole quantity of blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 61, and is in agreement with the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 applied to the 1st example at the point which dilutes blowdown hydrogen gas with the blowdown air which flows the air exhaust pipe 41. On the other hand, the blowdown hydrogen processor 60 concerning the 2nd example is replaced with a septum 30, is the point of preventing the blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 61 flowing backwards to the blowdown air supply tubing 45 and the air exhaust pipe 41 with the 2nd solenoid valve 53, and is different from the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 concerning the 1st example. [0060]

Valve opening of the 1st and 2nd solenoid valves 52 and 53 and clausilium timing are as being shown in <u>drawing 11</u>. That is, clausilium of the 2nd solenoid valve 53 which prevents the back run to the blowdown air supply tubing 45 of blowdown hydrogen gas and the air exhaust pipe 41 is carried out before the valve-opening timing of the 1st solenoid valve 52 which introduces blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently in the hold machine 61, and it is opened after the clausilium timing of the 1st solenoid valve 52. Consequently, in case blowdown hydrogen gas is introduced into the hold machine 61, after clausilium of the 2nd solenoid valve 53 has already been carried out and installation of the blowdown hydrogen gas into the hold machine 61 is completed, the 2nd solenoid valve 53 is opened. Therefore, even if it is the case where the pressure in the hold machine 61 rises temporarily by installation of blowdown hydrogen gas, blowdown hydrogen gas does not flow backwards to the blowdown air supply tubing 45 and the air exhaust pipe 41 as shown in <u>drawing 10</u>.

[0061]

Since the 2nd clausilium and valve-opening timing of a solenoid valve 53 are determined according to the introductory timing of the blowdown hydrogen gas into the hold machine 61 according to the blowdown hydrogen processor 60 concerning the 2nd example as explained above, the back run to the blowdown air supply tubing 45 of blowdown hydrogen gas and the air exhaust pipe 41 can be prevented. Therefore, while being able to make hydrogen concentration in the air exhaust pipe 41 in the upstream into 0% and being able to stabilize the dilution ratio of blowdown hydrogen gas rather than the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46, the hydrogen concentration discharged from the open end of the air exhaust pipe 41 can be reduced. [0062]

Moreover, actuation used not a passive check valve (negative pressure type check

valve) but the 2nd solenoid valve 53 which can switch actively a free passage and the condition of not being open for free passage as a means which switches open for free passage [of the blowdown air supply tubing 45 / being a free passage and being un-open for free passage]. When a negative pressure type check valve is used, it operates with the negative pressure generated with installation of the blowdown hydrogen gas into the hold machine 61, or there is a possibility of changing the closure condition of a valve with the generation water contained in blowdown hydrogen gas. Therefore, the back run to the blowdown air supply tubing 45 of blowdown hydrogen gas and the air exhaust pipe 41 can be prevented more certainly. [0063]

- Modification of the 2nd example:

In the 2nd example of the above, it is maintained by the clausilium condition after clausilium (being un-open for free passage) of the 2nd solenoid valve 53 was carried out until it opens again (free passage), but as shown in <u>drawing 12</u>, it may repeat intermittently a free passage and the condition (valve opening, clausilium) of not being open for free passage, to the timing of arbitration. <u>Drawing 12</u> is a timing diagram which shows the timing of the 1st solenoid valve in the modification of the 2nd example, and the 2nd solenoid valve of operation, the blowdown hydrogen quantity of gas flow introduced into the hold machine 61, the quantity of gas flow for dilution, and the blowdown hydrogen capacity discharged from the hold machine 61.

In this modification, as shown in <u>drawing 12</u>, after clausilium of the 2nd solenoid valve 53 is carried out before the valve-opening timing of the 1st solenoid valve 52 which introduces blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently in the hold machine 61, it opens again in the condition that the 1st solenoid valve 52 is opened, and it is closed and opened with a short period after that. As a result of opening and closing the 2nd solenoid valve 53 intermittently, as the flow rate of the gas for dilution which flows the blowdown air supply tubing 45, and the flow rate of the blowdown hydrogen gas which flows the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46 are shown in <u>drawing 12</u>, it changes for a short time. Consequently, a turbulent flow occurs in the hold machine 61, and mixing with the blowdown hydrogen gas and the gas for dilution which were introduced in the hold machine 61 is promoted.

[0065]

From the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46, since the blowdown hydrogen gas mixed with the gas for dilution is discharged, dilution of the blowdown hydrogen gas in the air exhaust pipe 41 can be promoted. Moreover, in this modification, since the 2nd solenoid valve 53 is opened at the period when the 1st solenoid valve 52 is opened, blowdown hydrogen gas flows backwards from the blowdown hydrogen supply pipe 45.

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However, while being able to control the hydrogen concentration discharged from the open end of the air exhaust pipe 41 by controlling the switching condition of the 2nd solenoid valve 53 appropriately, and adjusting the blowdown hydrogen capacity which flows backwards the blowdown air supply tubing 45 under to inflammable concentration, the blowdown hydrogen gas of the hold machine 61 interior can be made to discharge at an early stage.

- The 3rd example:

[0066]

The blowdown hydrogen processor 70 applied to the 3rd example with reference to drawing 13 - drawing 15 is explained. Drawing 13 is the outline block diagram of the blowdown hydrogen processor 70 concerning the 3rd example. Drawing 14 is a timing diagram which shows the timing of the 1st solenoid valve and the 2nd solenoid valve of operation. Drawing 15 is the explanatory view showing time amount change of the hydrogen concentration discharged from the open end of an air exhaust pipe. In addition, since the blowdown hydrogen processor 70 concerning the 3rd example is equipped with the same configuration as the blowdown hydrogen processor 60 concerning the 2nd example, it gives the same sign to each component, and omits the explanation. Moreover, among drawing 13, the hold machine 61 is expressed with the flat-surface sectional view, a continuous line expresses the flow of blowdown air and a broken line expresses the flow of blowdown hydrogen gas, respectively. [0067]

The blowdown hydrogen processor 70 concerning the 3rd example holds the whole quantity of blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 61, and is in agreement with the blowdown hydrogen processor 60 applied to the 2nd example at the point which dilutes blowdown hydrogen gas with the blowdown air which flows the air exhaust pipe 41. On the other hand, the blowdown hydrogen processor 70 concerning the 3rd example is the point of permitting the blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 61 flowing backwards in part to the blowdown air supply tubing 45 and the air exhaust pipe 41, and is different from the blowdown hydrogen processor 60 concerning the 2nd example. In addition, the switching action of a valve is controlled by the control unit which does not illustrate the 1st and 2nd solenoid valves 52 and 53. [0068]

Valve opening of the 1st and 2nd solenoid valves 52 and 53 and clausilium timing are as being shown in <u>drawing 14</u>. That is, clausilium of the 2nd solenoid valve 53 which controls the back run to the blowdown air supply tubing 45 of blowdown hydrogen gas and the air exhaust pipe 41 is carried out after the valve-opening timing of the 1st solenoid valve 52 which introduces blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently in the hold machine 61, and it is opened after the clausilium timing of the 1st solenoid valve 52.

Consequently, in case blowdown hydrogen gas is introduced into the hold machine 61, the 2nd solenoid valve 53 is in a valve-opening condition, and as shown in <u>drawing 13</u>, some blowdown hydrogen gas introduced in the hold machine 61 still flows backwards to the air exhaust pipe 41 through the blowdown air supply tubing 45. On the other hand, the valve-opening stage of the 2nd solenoid valve 53 is, after installation of the blowdown hydrogen gas into the hold machine 61 is completed.

[0069]

To the timing to which installation of blowdown hydrogen gas is started from the hydrogen exhaust pipe 43 to the hold machine 61, the blowdown air permuted by blowdown hydrogen gas in the previous permutation cycle is held in the hold machine 61. Therefore, even if hydrogen is not contained in the gas discharged from the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46 but hydrogen is contained in the blowdown air which flows the air exhaust pipe 41, it dilutes by the gas (blowdown air) discharged from the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46. Consequently, in the open end of the air exhaust pipe 41, the hydrogen resulting from the blowdown hydrogen gas which flowed backwards to the air exhaust pipe 41 appears at the beginning (inside L1 of drawing 15). From the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46, blowdown hydrogen gas comes to be discharged with the passage of time, and the hydrogen resulting from blowdown of the blowdown hydrogen gas from the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46 begins (inside L2 of drawing 15) to appear in the open end of the air exhaust pipe 41.

[0070]

However, since the hydrogen concentration in the blowdown air which flows the air exhaust pipe 41 becomes 0% gradually after clausilium of the 2nd solenoid valve 53 is carried out, the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged from the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46 is diluted by the blowdown air which flows the air exhaust pipe 41. Consequently, even if it sets the both sides of the blowdown hydrogen gas which flowed backwards to the air exhaust pipe 41, and the blowdown hydrogen gas from the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46 so that it may be expressed in [L3] drawing 15, hydrogen concentration does not exceed default value (4%). That is, whether it is in the condition that blowdown hydrogen gas is flowing backwards to the air exhaust pipe 41 or is in the condition that blowdown hydrogen gas is not flowing backwards to the air exhaust pipe 41, the hydrogen concentration in the blowdown air discharged from the open end of the air exhaust pipe 41 is always controlled to less than 4%. [0071]

Furthermore, when blowdown hydrogen gas is made to flow backwards to the air exhaust pipe 41 as compared with the case (inside L4 of <u>drawing 15</u>) where blowdown hydrogen gas is not made to flow backwards to the air exhaust pipe 41 (inside L3 of

drawing 15), it becomes clear from the graph of drawing 15 that time amount until it completes dilution of the whole quantity of the blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 61 is shortened.

[0072]

As explained above, since blowdown hydrogen gas is made to flow backwards to the air exhaust pipe 41, according to the blowdown hydrogen processor 70 concerning the 3rd example, to the timing to which installation of the blowdown hydrogen gas from the hydrogen exhaust pipe 43 to the hold machine 61 is started, it can emit into atmospheric air promptly after diluting the blowdown hydrogen gas introduced in the hold machine 61.

[0073]

That is, at the time of introductory initiation of the blowdown hydrogen gas to the hold machine 61, the gas discharged through the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46 to the air exhaust pipe 41 from the hold machine 61 is blowdown air, when not making blowdown hydrogen gas flow backwards to the air exhaust pipe 41, only blowdown air is discharged from the air exhaust pipe 41, and dilution of blowdown hydrogen gas is not yet performed. Therefore, time amount until blowdown hydrogen gas is discharged from the hold machine 61 is useless time amount. On the other hand, at the time of introductory initiation of the blowdown hydrogen gas to the hold machine 61, blowdown hydrogen gas can be made to be able to flow backwards to the air exhaust pipe 41, and blowdown hydrogen gas can be diluted with the blowdown hydrogen processor 70 concerning the 3rd example with the blowdown air discharged from the hold machine 61. Consequently, it becomes possible to also use effectively time amount until blowdown hydrogen gas moves to the air exhaust pipe 41 through the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46, and the time amount taken to complete dilution of blowdown hydrogen gas can be shortened.

[0074]

Moreover, since the back run to the air exhaust pipe 41 is expected beforehand, the smaller hold machine 61 can be used. For example, the air flow rate which flows the air exhaust pipe 41 can make capacity of the hold machine 61 about 51., if 61. of capacity of the hold machine of 10001. a part for /and origin becomes.

[0075]

In addition, according to the blowdown hydrogen processor 70 concerning the 3rd example, the same effectiveness as the blowdown hydrogen processor 60 concerning the 2nd example can be acquired.

[0076]

- The 4th example:

Other various examples of an internal configuration of the hold machines 21 and 61

which may be used in each above-mentioned example are explained with reference to drawing 16 - drawing 21. Drawing 16 is the explanatory view showing typically the floating condition of the 1st example of an internal configuration of a hold machine, and the blowdown hydrogen gas in a hold machine. Drawing 17 is the explanatory view showing typically the floating condition of the 7th example of an internal configuration of a hold machine, and the blowdown hydrogen gas in a hold machine. Drawing 18 is the explanatory view showing typically the floating condition of the 3rd example of an internal configuration of a hold machine, and the blowdown hydrogen gas in a hold machine. Drawing 19 is the explanatory view showing typically the floating condition of blowdown hydrogen gas when the 4th example of an internal configuration of a hold machine and the rate of flow in a hold machine are high. Drawing 20 is the explanatory view showing typically the floating condition of blowdown hydrogen gas when the 4th example of an internal configuration of a hold machine and the rate of flow in a hold machine are low. Drawing 21 is the explanatory view showing time amount change of the blowdown hydrogen concentration discharged from a hold machine equipped with the 4th internal configuration. The hold machine is expressed with them by the side-face sectional view by drawing 16 - drawing 20, and the longitudinal direction of the hold machine currently illustrated shows perpendicularly by them. In addition, in each following example of an internal configuration, after installation of the blowdown hydrogen gas inside a hold machine is completed, the gas for dilution is introduced. [0077]

. Hold machine 211 which has the 1st internal configuration :

As shown in <u>drawing 16</u>, the hold machine 211 is equipped with base section 211a which makes a base, and top-face section 211b which makes a top face at the time of loading. 211d of blowdown air-intakes which introduce the gas for dilution which extrudes blowdown hydrogen gas inside blowdown hydrogen gas inlet 211c which introduces into the interior of a hold machine the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged from the fuel cell (not shown), and a hold machine is arranged near the base section 211a. Blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust 211e which discharges the blowdown hydrogen gas temporarily held in the hold machine 211 and the gas for dilution to the exterior of the hold machine 211 is arranged near the top-face section 211b. That is, the hold machine 211 has the internal structure which makes the blowdown hydrogen gas and the gas for dilution which were introduced flow from base section 211a to top-face section 211b.

[0078]

It is near the base section 211a of the hold machine 211 interior, and 211f of porous dashboards which permit passage of the introduced blowdown hydrogen gas and the gas for dilution is arranged above the arrangement location of blowdown hydrogen gas

inlet 211c and 211d of blowdown air-intakes. According to the hold machine 211 which has the 1st internal configuration, the blowdown hydrogen gas and the gas for dilution which were introduced into the interior of a hold machine are led to the horizontal direction (cross direction) of the hold machine 211 by 211f of dashboards at the beginning when the rate of flow is high. Therefore, ring main can flow perpendicularly (blowdown hydrogen exhaust port 211e) promptly, and can control the situation which carries out diffusive mixing inside a hold machine. After ring main spreads round the horizontal direction of base section 211a, the two-layer structure to which the gas for dilution with larger specific gravity than hydrogen gas spreads to the hydrogen gas down side is formed. Moreover, the rate of flow of the gas for dilution is equalized by passing 211f of porous dashboards. Therefore, hydrogen gas is moved one by one by the gas for dilution to blowdown hydrogen exhaust port 211e of base section 211a to top-face section 211b, without mixing with the gas for dilution. Consequently, hydrogen can be emitted into atmospheric air by fixed concentration by adjusting the flow rate of the gas for dilution.

[0079]

. Hold machine 212 which has the 2nd internal configuration :

As shown in drawing 17, the hold machine 212 is equipped with base section 212a which makes a base, and top-face section 212b which makes a top face at the time of loading. 212d of blowdown air-intakes which introduce the gas for dilution which extrudes blowdown hydrogen gas inside blowdown hydrogen gas inlet 212c which introduces into the interior of a hold machine the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged from the fuel cell (not shown), and a hold machine is arranged near the top-face section 212b. Blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust 212e which discharges the blowdown hydrogen gas temporarily held in the hold machine 212 and the gas for dilution to the exterior of the hold machine 212 is arranged blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust 212c and 212d of gas exhaust for dilution, and near the top-face section 212b which counters.

[0080]

212f of dashboards which carry out partition formation of the TWY which leads the blowdown hydrogen gas with which blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust 212c and 212d of gas exhaust for dilution were introduced into the hold machine 212 interior of an arrangement side from blowdown hydrogen gas inlet 212c and 212d of blowdown air-intakes even to base section 212b by the gas for dilution is arranged. That is, the hold machine 212 has the internal structure which makes the blowdown hydrogen gas and the gas for dilution which were introduced flow from base section 212a to top-face section 212b. According to the hold machine 212 which has the 2nd internal configuration, the blowdown hydrogen gas introduced into the interior of a hold

machine is led to base section 212b by the gas for dilution. By the time the rate of flow of blowdown hydrogen gas reaches base section 212b, it will fall, and it is fully spread over the horizontal direction (cross direction) of the hold machine 212. Therefore, blowdown hydrogen gas can flow to blowdown hydrogen exhaust port 212e promptly, and can control the situation which carries out diffusive mixing to the gas for dilution inside a hold machine. After ring main spreads round the horizontal direction of base section 212a, the two-layer structure to which the gas for dilution with larger specific gravity than hydrogen gas spreads to the hydrogen gas down side is formed. Therefore, hydrogen gas is moved one by one by the gas for dilution to blowdown hydrogen exhaust port 212e of base section 212a to top-face section 212b, without mixing with the gas for dilution. Consequently, hydrogen can be emitted into atmospheric air by fixed concentration by adjusting the flow rate of the gas for dilution. [0081]

In order to prevent diffusion (dilution) of the blowdown hydrogen gas in a TWY and to spread blowdown hydrogen gas over the horizontal direction of base section 212b, the narrow thing of the road width of a TWY is desirable. Moreover, the hold machine 211 which has the 1st internal configuration may be similarly equipped with a porous dashboard. In this case, since the rate of flow of the gas for dilution is further equalized by passing a porous dashboard while fully being able to spread blowdown hydrogen gas over the horizontal direction (cross direction) of the hold machine 212, mixing of ring main can be controlled further.

[0082]

. Hold machine 213 which has the 3rd internal configuration :

As shown in drawing 18, the hold machine 213 is equipped with base section 213a which makes a base, and top-face section 213b which makes a top face at the time of loading. 213d of blowdown air-intakes which introduce the gas for dilution which extrudes blowdown hydrogen gas inside blowdown hydrogen gas inlet 213c which introduces into the interior of a hold machine the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged from the fuel cell (not shown), and a hold machine is arranged near the base section 213b. Blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust 213e which discharges the blowdown hydrogen gas temporarily held in the hold machine 213 and the gas for dilution to the exterior of the hold machine 213 is arranged blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust 213c and 213d of gas exhaust for dilution, and near the top-face section 213b which counters. [0083]

213f of two or more dashboards which form in the hold machine 213 interior the passage which leads the blowdown hydrogen gas and the gas for dilution which were introduced from blowdown hydrogen gas inlet 213c and 213d of blowdown air—intakes to blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust 213e is arranged horizontally. In order to prevent

diffusion (dilution) of the blowdown hydrogen gas in passage here, the narrow thing of the road width of passage is desirable. That is, the hold machine 213 has the internal structure which makes the blowdown hydrogen gas and the gas for dilution which were introduced flow from base section 213a to top—face section 213b. According to the hold machine 213 which has the 3rd internal configuration, the blowdown hydrogen gas introduced into the interior of a hold machine is extruded one by one by the gas for dilution introduced continuously to blowdown hydrogen exhaust port 213e according to the passage by which partition formation was carried out by 213f of dashboards. Therefore, while the stowage (volume) of the hold machine 213 is effectively utilizable, diffusive mixing of the ring main in the interior of a hold machine can be controlled. Consequently, hydrogen can be emitted into atmospheric air by fixed concentration by adjusting the flow rate of the gas for dilution.

. Hold machine 214 which has the 4th internal configuration :

Although the hold machine 214 is equipped with the same configuration as the hold machine 213 which has the 3rd internal configuration, it is fundamentally different at a point equipped with the thing porous as 214f of dashboards. In the following explanation, about the same component as the hold machine 213 which has the 3rd internal configuration, it replaces with the sign of 213 only about the figure part of a sign, and the explanation is omitted using the sign of 214. [0085]

With reference to <u>drawing 19</u> – <u>drawing 21</u>, the operation effectiveness acquired by having 214f of porous dashboards is explained. To 214f of dashboards, in parallel, when the rate of flowing fluid is high, 214f of porous dashboards does not permit that a fluid passes vertically to 214f of dashboards, but when the rate of a fluid is low, they permit that a fluid passes vertically to 214f of dashboards. Therefore, when a blowdown hydrogen gas flow rate is high (there are many flow rates), at the time of load operation of the fuel cell except the time of start up and an idle, the porous part of 214f of dashboards does not function, and blowdown hydrogen gas passes a porous part and does not move (refer to <u>drawing 19</u>). Therefore, the same operation effectiveness as the hold machine 213 which has the 3rd internal configuration can be acquired.

[0086]

On the other hand, when the rate of flow of blowdown hydrogen gas called the time of start up and an idle is low (there are few flow rates), the porous part of 214f of dashboards functions, and blowdown hydrogen gas passes a porous part to a case, and moves to it from base section 214a to top-face section 214b. That is, when the rate of flow of blowdown hydrogen gas is low, the hydrogen of blowdown hydrogen gas

moves not only to a horizontal direction but to the upper part, so that passing speed to the perpendicular direction (upper part) of the hydrogen resulting from buoyancy cannot be disregarded. Therefore, some blowdown hydrogen gas passes 214f of dashboards, and it is diluted with the hold machine 214 (refer to <u>drawing 20</u>). (spread in the hold machine 214) [at least]

As shown in drawing 21, in being so few that blowdown hydrogen capacity permits the dilution in the hold machine 214 according to the hold machine 214 equipped with the 4th internal configuration, it permits passage of 214f of dashboards of blowdown hydrogen gas. Therefore, after having **** diluted with the hold machine 214 interior, since it dilutes again by the gas for dilution which flows an air exhaust pipe, blowdown hydrogen gas can reduce the peak value of the hydrogen concentration discharged from the open end of an air exhaust pipe. On the other hand, since blowdown hydrogen gas is not diluted with the interior of a hold machine when the dashboard which does not have the porous section is used, the peak value of the hydrogen concentration discharged from a blowdown hydrogen exhaust port is almost fixed irrespective of the rate of flow of blowdown hydrogen gas. That is, the hold machine 214 can emit the hydrogen of low concentration into atmospheric air over many hours. Consequently, power required in order to become possible to lessen a dilution gas flow rate and to supply dilution gas under the conditions that the blowdown hydrogen gas concentration at the time of an idle etc. is low can be reduced. [8800]

- The 5th example:

You may make it control the back run of the blowdown hydrogen gas to the air exhaust pipe 41, although the 2nd solenoid valve 53 was used and the back run of the blowdown hydrogen gas to the air exhaust pipe 41 was prevented and adjusted in the 2nd and 3rd examples, without having the 2nd solenoid valve 53, as shown in drawing 22. Drawing 22 is the outline block diagram of the blowdown hydrogen processor 80 concerning the 5th example, and the hold machine is expressed with the flat-surface sectional view. This blowdown hydrogen processor 80 is equipped with the almost symmetrical hold machine 81, and the hydrogen exhaust pipe 43 is connected in the center of abbreviation of the hold machine 81. By having this configuration, while [2 seconds] blowdown hydrogen gas is introduced into the hold machine 81, the blowdown air in the hold machine 81 is discharged at the outside of the hold machine 81 through the blowdown air supply tubing 45 and the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 46 (air exhaust pipe 41). Therefore, after blowdown hydrogen gas is introduced into the hold machine 81, it becomes possible to derive blowdown hydrogen gas to the air exhaust pipe 41 promptly, and the time amount taken to complete dilution can be

shortened.

[0089]

- The 6th example:

In each above—mentioned example, one by one, the blowdown hydrogen gas which held blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine temporarily, and was held by introducing a part of gas for dilution into a hold machine is extruded from the 1 side of a hold machine to the side else, and is discharged out of a hold machine. Moreover, after blowdown hydrogen gas is discharged from a blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe to the air exhaust pipe 41 and is diluted in principle, it is discharged in atmospheric air. On the other hand, in the 6th example, the back run of dilution of blowdown hydrogen gas and the blowdown hydrogen gas to blowdown air supply tubing is permitted at the beginning of blowdown hydrogen gas installation.

[0090]

The blowdown hydrogen processor 90 concerning the 6th example is explained with reference to drawing 23 - drawing 28. Drawing 23 is the outline block diagram of the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 6th example, and the hold machine is expressed with the flat-surface sectional view. Drawing 24 is the mimetic diagram showing the situation of the blowdown hydrogen firedamp migration in the hold machine in the case of extruding the blowdown hydrogen gas held using a part of gas for dilution. Drawing 25 is the mimetic diagram showing the situation of the blowdown hydrogen firedamp migration in the hold machine in the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 6th example. Drawing 26 is the explanatory view showing time amount change of the blowdown hydrogen concentration discharged from the blowdown hydrogen processor 90 concerning the 6th example. Drawing 27 is the mimetic diagram showing change of the hydrogen concentration at the time of the blowdown hydrogen gas installation in the blowdown hydrogen processor 90 concerning the 6th example. Drawing 28 is the mimetic diagram showing change of the hydrogen concentration at the time of the gas installation for dilution in the blowdown hydrogen processor 90 concerning the 6th example.

[0091]

The blowdown hydrogen processor 90 is equipped with two or more dashboards 92 which regulate the flow of the fluid in the box-like hold machine 91 and hold machine 91 interior, and form passage. The hydrogen exhaust pipe 93 for the distance from the 1st edge 911 and 2nd edge 912 of the hold machine 91 being in abbreviation etc. by carrying out, and supplying blowdown hydrogen to a center section is connected, and the hydrogen exhaust pipe 93 is equipped with the 1st solenoid valve 52 into which blowdown hydrogen gas is made to introduce to the hold machine 91 intermittently. The end of the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 94 for discharging the blowdown

hydrogen gas in a hold machine is connected to the 1st edge 911 side of the hold machine 91, and the end of the blowdown air supply tubing 95 for introducing a part of blowdown air as gas for dilution in a hold machine is connected to the 2nd edge 912 side of the hold machine 91. The other end of the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 94 is always connected near the atmospheric—air open end (downstream) of the air exhaust pipe 96 with which the blowdown air for dilution flows. The other end of the blowdown air supply tubing 95 is connected with the air exhaust pipe 96 in the upstream rather than the connecting location of the other end of the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 94.

[0092]

The dashboard 92 is arranged at the 1st about 911 edge and 2nd about 912 edge of the hold machine 92, and is not arranged in the center section of the hold machine 92 to which the hydrogen exhaust pipe 93 is connected. Consequently, mixing with the existing air and the introduced blowdown hydrogen gas is permitted inside a hold machine, and blowdown hydrogen gas is diluted near the center section of the hold machine 91. On the other hand, at the 1st and 2nd 911 or about 912 edges, with a dashboard 92, diffusion (dilution) of blowdown hydrogen gas can be regulated and blowdown hydrogen gas can be led to the air exhaust pipe 96 one by one through the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 94. Moreover, the blowdown air (gas for dilution) supplied from the blowdown air supply tubing 95 can be led to the center section of the hold machine 91.

[0093]

With reference to drawing 25, it explains that the blowdown hydrogen gas introduced in the hold machine 91 flows in the blowdown hydrogen processor 90 concerning this example. It mixes with the existing air and the blowdown hydrogen gas introduced from the hydrogen exhaust pipe 93 is diluted with the center section of the hold machine 91 with which a dashboard 92 is not arranged but partition formation of the large space is carried out. Since the distance from the 1st edge 911 and 2nd edge 912 of the hold machine 91 is in abbreviation etc. by carrying out and is connected to the center section, the hydrogen exhaust pipe 93 One half of the blowdown hydrogen gas which was introduced into the interior of a hold machine and was diluted according to the passage formed by the dashboard 92, it flows to the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 94, and flows to the blowdown air supply tubing 95 the one half remaining according to the passage formed by the dashboard 92. Since the bulb (solenoid valve 53) for preventing a back run in the blowdown air supply tubing 95 in this example is not arranged, the blowdown hydrogen gas which reached the blowdown air supply tubing 95 flows backwards the blowdown air supply tubing 95, and flows to the air exhaust pipe 96 at the beginning [of the blowdown hydrogen gas with which the

pressure of the hold machine 91 becomes higher than the pressure of the blowdown air supply tubing 95 \prime introductory].

[0094]

In the blowdown hydrogen processor 90 concerning this example, the blowdown hydrogen firedamp-migration distance in the time of blowdown hydrogen gas installation serves as half as compared with the case where blowdown hydrogen gas is always extruded from the 1 side of a hold machine using the gas for dilution to the side else (refer to drawing 24). Especially to the capacity of the hold machine 91, when there are few blowdown hydrogen quantities of gas flow per time, the existing air in the hold machine 91 can be effectively used as dilution gas. Therefore, the blowdown hydrogen gas temporarily held in the hold machine 91 can reduce by half the time amount required in order to be discharged promptly in the exterior of the hold machine 91 and to discharge the existing air out of the hold machine 91 in the hold vessel 91 (refer to drawing 26). Moreover, since the blowdown hydrogen gas introduced into the hold machine 91 in early stages is diluted by the existing air in the hold machine 91, the peak value of the hydrogen concentration discharged in atmospheric air from the blowdown hydrogen processor 90 can be reduced (refer to drawing 26).

[0095]

The concentration change in the hold machine 91 in the blowdown hydrogen processor 90 concerning this example is as being shown in drawing 27 and drawing 28. When blowdown hydrogen gas is introduced in the hold machine 91, the blowdown hydrogen gas introduced in the hold machine 91 extrudes the existing air in the hold machine 91, and the gaseous mixture of blowdown hydrogen gas and air out of the hold machine 91 while the part is mixed with the existing air in the hold machine 91. For example, h, then the hydrogen concentration (vol%) expressed by h/(M+H) x100 are discharged in atmospheric air in the amount of hydrogen discharged [air flow rate / blowdown] from H and the hold machine 91 in M and a blowdown hydrogen quantity of gas flow.

[0096]

after blowdown hydrogen gas was introduced in the hold machine 91 on the other hand (when it is except the introductory timing of blowdown hydrogen gas) — the blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 91 — the blowdown air supply tubing 95 — since — it is discharged out of the hold machine 91 from the blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe 94 by the gas for dilution introduced in the hold machine 91. Consequently, the blowdown hydrogen gas in the hold machine 91 is permuted by the gas for dilution. For example, the hydrogen concentration (vol%) which the quantity of gas flow for dilution is expressed by m, and is expressed by M, then m/Mx100 in a blowdown air flow rate is discharged in atmospheric air. Also in which service condition of a fuel cell, the

.

blowdown hydrogen processor 90 concerning this example is designed so that the hydrogen concentration (vol%) expressed with (h/(M+H) x100) and (m/Mx100) may become under an inflammable range.

[0097]

Moreover, according to the blowdown hydrogen processor 90 concerning this example, the time amount required in order to discharge the existing air out of the hold machine 91 in the hold machine 91 at the beginning of blowdown hydrogen gas installation until now can be reduced by half.

[0098]

Moreover, the existing air which had only discharged it out of the hold machine 91 until now at the beginning of blowdown hydrogen gas installation while using the time amount required in order to discharge the existing air out of the hold machine 91 in the hold machine 91 in order to discharge blowdown hydrogen gas out of the hold machine 91 can be used as gas for dilution. Therefore, while being able to discharge promptly the blowdown hydrogen gas held in the hold machine 91 out of the blowdown hydrogen processor 90, the peak value of the hydrogen concentration discharged from the blowdown hydrogen processor 90 can be reduced (refer to drawing 26). [0099]

As a result, at for example, the time of start up of a fuel cell, at the time of an idle, it can be adapted for the blowdown timing of suitable various blowdown hydrogen gas for each operational status of the time of load operation, blowdown hydrogen gas can be held, and blowdown hydrogen gas can be discharged in atmospheric air by the hydrogen concentration of under inflammable concentration.

[0100]

As mentioned above, although the blowdown hydrogen processor applied to this invention based on some examples has been explained, the above-mentioned gestalt of implementation of invention is for making an understanding of this invention easy, and does not limit this invention. This invention is natural while changing and improving that of the equivalent being contained in this invention, without deviating from a claim in the meaning list.

[0101]

Although the blowdown hydrogen gas intermittently discharged from a fuel electrode 13 using the blowdown air discharged from the air pole 12 of a fuel cell 10 is diluted with the above-mentioned example, it may have Blois etc. separately and the fire-resistant gas for diluting blowdown hydrogen gas may be supplied to the air exhaust pipe 41 or another gas supply line for dilution. Since the fire-resistant quantity of gas flow of what must be separately equipped with Blois etc. can be enlarged in this case, even if it enlarges the blowdown hydrogen firedamp-migration

rate (the rate of flow of the fire-resistant gas supplied from the blowdown air supply tubing 45) in the hold machines 21 and 61, the hydrogen concentration in the gas discharged from the blowdown air exhaust pipe 41 (gas supply line for dilution) can be stopped to less than 4%. Therefore, while becoming possible to make capacity of the hold machines 21 and 61 small and being able to miniaturize a blowdown hydrogen processor, the time amount taken to complete dilution of blowdown hydrogen gas can be shortened.

[0102]

Although the gas which dilutes blowdown hydrogen gas is called blowdown air in the above-mentioned example, it may be called the gas for dilution. However, even if it is the case where the name of the gas for dilution is used, with the hold vessels 21 and 61, dilution is not performed but dilution is performed in the blowdown air exhaust pipe 41 (gas supply line for dilution).

[0103]

Although the gestalt of the shape of box-like and tubing was mentioned as the example and the above-mentioned example explained it as hold machines 21 and 61, the gestalt of a hold machine is not limited to these gestalten. Namely, what is necessary is just to be able to delay time amount until the blowdown hydrogen gas discharged from the fuel electrode 13 is emitted into atmospheric air.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the block diagram showing the outline configuration of the fuel cell system containing the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 1st example. [Drawing 2] It is the explanatory view showing other hold machines which may be applied to the blowdown processor concerning the 1st example.

[Drawing 3] It is the flat—surface sectional view showing typically the situation of floating of the blowdown hydrogen gas in the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 (hold machine 21).

[Drawing 4] It is the flat-surface sectional view showing typically the situation of floating of the blowdown hydrogen gas in the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 (hold machine 21).

[Drawing 5] It is the flat-surface sectional view showing typically the situation of floating of the blowdown hydrogen gas in the blowdown hydrogen processor 20 (hold machine 21).

[Drawing 6] It is the explanatory view showing the 1st gestalt of the floating specification part with which a blowdown hydrogen processor is equipped.

[Drawing 7] It is the explanatory view showing the 2nd gestalt of the floating specification part with which a blowdown hydrogen processor is equipped.

[Drawing 8] It is the explanatory view showing the 3rd gestalt of the floating

specification part with which a blowdown hydrogen processor is equipped.

[Drawing 9] It is the explanatory view showing the 4th gestalt of the floating specification part with which a blowdown hydrogen processor is equipped.

[Drawing 10] It is the outline block diagram of the blowdown hydrogen processor 60 concerning the 2nd example.

[Drawing 11] It is the timing diagram which shows the timing of the 1st solenoid valve and the 2nd solenoid valve of operation.

[Drawing 12] It is the timing diagram which shows the timing of the 1st solenoid valve in the modification of the 2nd example, and the 2nd solenoid valve of operation, the blowdown hydrogen quantity of gas flow introduced into the hold machine 61, the quantity of gas flow for dilution, and the blowdown hydrogen capacity discharged from the hold machine 61.

[Drawing 13] It is the outline block diagram of the blowdown hydrogen processor 70 concerning the 3rd example.

[Drawing 14] It is the timing diagram which shows the timing of the 1st solenoid valve and the 2nd solenoid valve of operation.

[Drawing 15] It is the explanatory view showing time amount change of the hydrogen concentration discharged from the open end of an air exhaust pipe.

[Drawing 16] It is the explanatory view showing typically the floating condition of the 1st example of an internal configuration of a hold machine, and the blowdown hydrogen gas in a hold machine.

[Drawing 17] It is the explanatory view showing typically the floating condition of the 7th example of an internal configuration of a hold machine, and the blowdown hydrogen gas in a hold machine.

[Drawing 18] It is the explanatory view showing typically the floating condition of the 3rd example of an internal configuration of a hold machine, and the blowdown hydrogen gas in a hold machine.

[Drawing 19] It is the explanatory view showing typically the floating condition of blowdown hydrogen gas when the 4th example of an internal configuration of a hold machine and the rate of flow in a hold machine are high.

[Drawing 20] It is the explanatory view showing typically the floating condition of blowdown hydrogen gas when the 4th example of an internal configuration of a hold machine and the rate of flow in a hold machine are low.

[Drawing 21] It is the explanatory view showing time amount change of the blowdown hydrogen concentration discharged from a hold machine equipped with the 4th internal configuration.

[Drawing 22] It is the outline block diagram of the blowdown hydrogen processor 80 concerning the 5th example.

[Drawing 23] It is the outline block diagram of the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 6th example, and the hold machine is expressed with the flat-surface sectional view.

[Drawing 24] It is the mimetic diagram showing the situation of the blowdown hydrogen firedamp migration in the hold machine in the case of extruding the blowdown hydrogen gas held using a part of gas for dilution.

[Drawing 25] It is the mimetic diagram showing the situation of the blowdown hydrogen firedamp migration in the hold machine in the blowdown hydrogen processor concerning the 6th example.

[Drawing 26] It is the explanatory view showing time amount change of the blowdown hydrogen concentration discharged from the blowdown hydrogen processor 90 concerning the 6th example.

[Drawing 27] It is the mimetic diagram showing change of the hydrogen concentration at the time of the blowdown hydrogen gas installation in the blowdown hydrogen processor 90 concerning the 6th example.

[Drawing 28] It is the mimetic diagram showing change of the hydrogen concentration at the time of the gas installation for dilution in the blowdown hydrogen processor 90 concerning the 6th example.

[Description of Notations]

- 10 -- Fuel cell
- 11 Poly membrane
- 12 -- Air pole
- 13 -- Fuel electrode
- 14 -- Air compressor
- 15 Hydrogen reservoir
- 16 -- Pump for circulation
- 20 Blowdown hydrogen processor
- 21 -- Hold machine
- 21a -- Induction
- 21b -- Derivation section
- 22 -- Dashboard
- 23 -- Blowdown hydrogen gas inlet
- 24 -- Blowdown air-intake
- 30 Septum
- 31 -- Floating specification part
- 40 Air supply tubing
- 41 -- Air exhaust pipe (gas supply way for dilution)
- 42 -- Hydrogen supply pipe

- 43 Hydrogen exhaust pipe (blowdown hydrogen gas supply way)
- 44 -- Hydrogen circulation tubing
- 45 Blowdown air supply tubing
- 46 -- Blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe
- 50 Control valve
- 51 Check valve
- 60 Blowdown hydrogen processor
- 61 Hold machine
- 70 -- Blowdown hydrogen processor
- 80 Blowdown hydrogen processor
- 90 Blowdown hydrogen processor
- 91 -- Hold machine
- 911 The 1st edge
- 912 -- The 2nd edge
- 92 Dashboard
- 93 -- Hydrogen exhaust pipe
- 94 -- Blowdown hydrogen gas exhaust pipe
- 95 -- Blowdown air supply tubing
- 96 -- Air exhaust pipe

[Translation done.]

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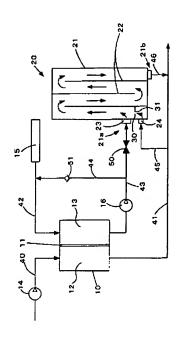
(54) 【発明の名称】燃料電池の排出水素処理

(57)【要約】

【課題】希釈室を用いることなく簡易な構成にて可燃範 囲以下の濃度で水素を大気中に放出する排出水素処理装 置を提供すること。

【解決手段】制御弁50が連通状態に置かれると、燃料極13側の排出水素がスが排出水素がス導入口23を介して収容器21内に導入される。一時的に収容器21の第1の空間の圧力が増大するが、隔壁30の流動規制部31によって、収容器21に導入された排出水素がスの排出空気供給管45への逆流が防止される。制御弁50が非連通状態に置かれると、排出空気取入口24から導入された排出空気が隔壁30の流動規制部31を通過して、排出水素がスを導出部216から排出水素がスを導出部216から排出水素がスは、導出部216から排出水素がス排出管46を介して、空気排出管41の大気開放端近傍に排出され、空気排出管41を流れる排出空気によって希釈され、大気中に放出される。

【選択図】 図1



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】

燃料電池の燃料極側から間欠的に排出される排出水素がスを希釈する排出水素処理装置であって、

導入部および導出部を有すると共に前記間欠的に排出された排出水素がスの全量を収容可能な収容器と、

前記燃料電池の燃料極側と前記収容器の導入部とを連通する排出水素ガス供給路と、

希釈用ガスを定常的に供給する希釈用ガス供給路と、

前記収容器の導出部と前記希釈用ガス供給路の所定位置とを連通する排出水素ガス排出路と、

前記所定位置よりも上流側において、前記希釈用ガス供給路と前記収容器の導入部とを連通するガス導入路と、

前記ガス導入路に対する前記収容器内の排出水素ガスの流出を抑制する抑制手段とを構える排出水素処理装置。

【請求項2】

請求項1に記載の排出水素処理装置において、

前記希釈用ガスは、前記燃料電池の空気極側がら排出される排出空気であり、

前記希釈用ガス供給路は、前記燃料電池の空気極側から排出される排出空気を大気へ排出する排出路である排出水素処理装置。

【請求項3】

請求項1または請求項2に記載の排出水素処理装置において、

前記導入部は、前記がス導入路が接続される希釈用がス取入口、その希釈用がス取入口よりも下流側に前記排出水素がス供給路が接続される排出水素がス導入口を備える排出水素処理装置。

【請求項4】

請求項3に記載の排出水素処理装置において、

前記抑制手段は、前記収容器を、前記排出水素ガス導入口を含む第1の空間と前記希釈用ガス取入口を含む第2の空間とに区分すると共に、前記希釈用ガス取入口がら供給される希釈用ガスの通過を許容し、前記排出水素ガス導入口がら導入される排出水素ガスの通過を規制する流動規制部を有する隔壁である排出水素処理装置。

【請求項5】

請求項4に記載の排出水素処理装置において、

前記流動規制部は、前記隔壁に形成された孔またはスリットである排出水素処理装置。

【請求項6】

請求項4または請求項5に記載の排出水素処理装置において、

前記収容器は、流体を前記導入部から前記導出部へ導く流路を形成する仕切板を内部に備える箱状体であり、

前記導入部は、前記流路の最上流域に備えられている排出水素処理装置。

【請求項7】

請求項4または請求項5に記載の排出水素処理装置において、

前記収容器は、管状体であり、

前記希釈用ガス取入口は、前記管状体の一端に形成され、前記導出部は前記管状体の他端に形成される排出水素処理装置。

【請求項8】

請求項1または請求項2に記載の排出水素処理装置において、

前記抑制手段は、前記希釈用ガス供給路に配置されると共に前記希釈用ガス供給路を連通および非連通状態を切り換える弁機構であり、

前記排出水素処理装置はさらに、

前記排出水素ガスが間欠的に排出される前に、前記弁機構によって前記希釈用ガス供給路を非連通状態に切り換える弁機構制御器を備える排出水素処理装置。

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【請求項9】

請求項1または請求項2に記載の排出水素処理装置において、

前記抑制手段は、前記希釈用ガス供給路に配置されると共に前記希釈用ガス供給路を連通および非連通状態を切り換える弁機構であり、

前記排出水素処理装置はさらに、

前記排出水素がスが間欠的に排出される前に、前記弁機構によって前記希釈用がス供給路の連通、非連通状態を任意のタイミングにて切り換える弁機構制御器を構える排出水素処理装置。

【請求項10】

請求項9に記載の排出水素処理装置において、

前記弁機構制御器は、前記排出水素がスが間欠的に排出された後に、前記弁機構によって前記弁機構によって前記希釈用がス供給路の連通、非連通状態を任意のタイミングにて切り換える排出水素処理装置。

【請求項11】

燃料電池の燃料極側から排出される排出水素ガスを希釈する排出水素処理装置であって、 前記排出水素ガスを希釈する希釈部と、

前記燃料電池の燃料極側がら所定の時間間隔にて排出水素がスを排出させる排出手段と、前記排出水素がスを希釈するための希釈用がスを定常的に前記希釈部へ供給する希釈用がス供給手段と、

前記排出された排出水素ガスを収容すると共に、前記排出された排出水素ガスが前記希釈部へ移動する時間を前記所定の時間間隔よりも短い時間だけ遅延させるよう、前記希釈用ガス供給手段によって供給される希釈用ガスの一部を利用して、前記収容されている前記排出水素ガスを前記希釈部へ移動させる遅延手段と、

前記遅延手段に収容されている前記排出水素ガスが前記希釈用ガス供給手段へ逆移動することを抑制する逆移動抑制手段とを備える排出水素処理装置。

【請求項12】

請求項11に記載の排出水素処理装置において、

前記移動手段によって利用される希釈用がスの時間あたりの供給量は、前記所定の時間間隔に反比例する排出水素処理装置。

【請求項13】

燃料電池の燃料極側から間欠的に排出される排出水素がスを希釈する排出水素処理装置であって、

導入部および導出部とを有すると共に、前記間欠的に排出された排出水素がスの全量を収容可能な収容器と、

前記燃料電池の燃料極側と前記収容器とを連通する排出水素ガス供給路と、

希釈用ガスを定常的に供給する希釈用ガス供給路と、

前記収容器の導出部と前記希釈用ガス供給路の所定位置とを連通する排出水素ガス排出路と、

前記所定位置よりも上流側において、前記希釈用がス供給路と前記収容器の導入部とを連通するがス導入路と、

前記ガス導入路に配置され、前記ガス導入路を連通および非連通状態のいずれかの状態に切り換える第1の切り替え機構と、

前記第1の切り替え機構の切り替え状態を制御する制御手段であって、前記排出水素ガスが排出された後に、前記第1の切り替え機構を非連通状態に切り換える制御手段とを構える排出水素処理装置。

【請求項14】

請求項13に記載の排出水素処理装置はさらに、

前記排出水素がス供給路に配置されていると共に、前記排出水素がス供給路を間欠的に非連通状態から連通状態に切り換える第2の切り替え機構を備え、

前記制御手段は、前記第2の切り替え機構が連通状態に切り換えられた後に、前記第1の

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切り替え機構を非連通状態に切り換えると共に、前記第2の切り替え機構が非連通状態に切り換えられた後に、前記第1の切り替え機構を連通状態に切り換える排出水素処理装置

【請求項15】

燃料電池の燃料極側から間欠的に排出される排出水素がスを希釈する排出水素処理装置であって、

第1および第2の端部を有すると共に、前記間欠的に排出された排出水素がスの全量を収容可能な収容器と、

前記燃料電池の燃料極側と前記収容器の路中央部とを連通する排出水素ガス供給路と、

希釈用ガスを定常的に供給する希釈用ガス供給路と、

前記収容器の前記第1の端部と前記希釈用ガス供給路の所定位置とを連通する排出水素ガス排出路と、

前記所定位置よりも上流側において、前記希釈用がス供給路と前記収容器の前記第2の端部とを連通するがス導入路とを備える排出水素処理装置。

【請求項16】

燃料電池の燃料極側から間欠的に排出される排出水素がスを定常的に供給される希釈用がスを用いて希釈する排出水素処理装置において、排出水素がスを一時的に収容する収容器であって、

設置時に底面をなす底面部と、

設置時に頂面をなす頂面部と、

前記間欠的に排出された排出水素がスの全量を収容可能であると共に、導入された流体を前記底面部から前記項面部へと流動させる内部構造を有する収容部と、

前記排出水素ガスおよび前記希釈用ガスの一部を前記収容部に導入する導入部と、

前記一時的に収容された排出水素ガスを前記収容部外へ導出する導出部とを備える収容器

【請求項17】

請求項16に記載の収容器において、

前記導入部は前記底面部の近傍に配置され、前記導出部は前記項面部の近傍に配置されている収容器。

【請求項18】

請求項16に記載の収容器において、

前記導入部は前記項面部の近傍に配置され、前記導出部は前記導入部と対向する前記項面部の近傍に配置され、

前記収容部は、前記導入部を介して収容器内部に導入された流体を前記底面部へと導く誘導路を内部に備える収容器。

【請求項19】

請求項17または請求項18に記載の収容器において、

前記収容部は、流体を前記底面部から前記項面部へと導く流路を形成すると共に前記底面部と平行な 1 つ以上の仕切板を内部に備える収容器。

【請求項20】

請求項19に記載の収容器において、

前記各仕切板には、流体の流速が低い場合に排出水素がスの通過を許容する流体通過部が構えられている収容器。

【請求項21】

請求項20に記載の収容器において、

前記流体通過部は、複数の細孔またはスリットである収容器。

【請求項22】

燃料電池の燃料極側から間欠的に排出される排出水素がスを希釈する排出水素処理装置であって、

請求項16ないし請求項21のいずれかに記載の収容器と、

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前記燃料電池の燃料極側と前記収容器の導入部とを連通する排出水素がス供給路と、 希釈用がスを定常的に供給する希釈用がス供給路と、

前記収容器の導出部と前記希釈用ガス供給路の所定位置とを連通する排出水素ガス排出路と、

前記所定位置よりも上流側において、前記希釈用がス供給路と前記収容器の導入部とを連通するがス導入路と、

前記ガス導入路に対する前記収容器内の排出水素ガスの流出を抑制する抑制手段とを構える排出水素処理装置。

【請求項23】

燃料電池の燃料極側から間欠的に排出される排出水素がスを希釈する排出水素処理装置で 10 あって、

第1 および 第2の 端部、 並びに前記 第1 および 第2の 端部 がらの 距離が 略 等し) 排出水 素 導入 部 を 有 す る と 共 に 、 前 記 間 欠 的 に 排 出 さ れ 友 排 出 水 素 が ス の 全 量 を 収 容 可 能 な 収 容 器 と 、

前記排出水素導入部と前記燃料電池の燃料極側とを連通する排出水素ガス供給路と、

希釈用ガスを定常的に供給する希釈用ガス供給路と、

前記収容器の前記第1の端部と前記希釈用ガス供給路の所定位置とを連通する排出水素ガス排出路と、

前記所定位置よりも上流側において、前記希釈用がス供給路と前記収容器の前記第2の端部とを連通するがス導入路とを備える排出水素処理装置。

【請求項24】

請求項23に記載の排出水素処理装置において、

前記収容器は、導入された流体の流路を規定する複数の仕切板を有し、

前記排出水素導入部近傍における仕切板の間隔は、前記第1および第2の端部近傍における仕切板の間隔よりも広い排出水素処理装置。

【請求項25】

請求項23に記載の排出水素処理装置において、

前記収容器は、前記第1および第2の端部近傍に、導入された流体の流路を規定する複数の仕切板を有する排出水素処理装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】

本発明は、燃料電池から間欠排出される排出水素がスを希釈処理して大気中へ排出する排出水素処理装置に関し、特に、移動式燃料電池に適切な排出水素処理装置に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】

一般的に用いられている高分子膜型燃料電池では、燃料極側に供給され消費されなかった水素を含むガス(排出水素ガス)を、新たに供給された水素と共に燃料極側に再供給するためのガス循環手段を備えている。この排出水素ガスには、本来、水素以外の成分は含まれないはずであるが、反応に伴い生成された水、空気極側からの窒素といった水素以外の成分(不純物)が含まれているのが現状である。したがって、排出水素ガスの循環を続ける内に、燃料極側に供給される水素濃度が不純物によって低下し、発電効率が低下してしまう。

[0003]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

この問題を解決するために、従来より、排出水素がスを定期的にがス循環系の外に排出して、燃料極側の水素濃度を元の濃度に回復させる処理が実行されている。ここで問題となるのが、がス循環系外に排出された排出水素がスの処理である。設置式燃料電池であれば、コージェネレーションシステムに組み込むことで排出水素がスを熱源として利用したり、排出水素がスを希釈室にて希釈した後に大気中に放出することで対処できる。これに対

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して、移動式燃料電池の場合には、一般的に、スペース上の制約から大量の排出水素がス を貯蔵して、希釈する希釈室を設けることは困難であり、また、排出水素がスを燃焼させる場合には窒素酸化物が発生すると共に燃焼用パーナ等を余分に備えなければならないという問題があった。

[0004]

また、燃料電池から排出水素がスを排出するタイミング(時間間隔)は、燃料電池の運転条件によって変動する。特に、排出水素がスが短い時間間隔にて排出される場合には、迅速に排出水素がス濃度を可燃濃度未満の濃度まで低減させることが要求される。さらに、燃料電池から少量の排出水素がスが排出される場合には、大量の排出水素がスが排出される場合よりも少量の希釈がスで十分排出水素がス濃度を低減することが望まれる。

[0005]

本発明は、上記課題を解決するためになされたものであり、希釈室を用いることなく簡易な構成にて可燃濃度未満の濃度で水素を大気中に放出する排出水素処理装置を提供することを目的とする。また、排出水素処理装置に導入される排出水素がス量が少なくなるにつれて排出水素処理装置から排出される排出水素がス濃度を少量の希釈がスで十分低減させることを目的とする。

[0006]

【課題を解決するための手段および作用・効果】

[0007]

本発明の第1の態様に係る排出水素処理装置によれば、希釈用ガスが定常的に供給されている希釈用ガス供給路にて排出水素ガスの希釈を実行し、また、ガス導入路への収容器内の排出水素ガスの逆流が抑制手段によって抑制されるので、希釈室を用いることなく簡易な構成にて可燃濃度未満の濃度で水素を大気中に放出することができる。

[0008]

本発明の第1の態様に係る排出水素処理装置において、希釈用ガス供給路は、燃料電池の空気極側から排出される排出空気を大気へ排出する排出路であっても良く、かかる場合、希釈用ガスは、燃料電池の空気極側から排出される排出空気となり、また、排出水素処理装置の構成をより簡易なものとすることができる。

[0009]

本発明の第1の態様に係る排出水素処理装置において、収容器の導入部は、ガス導入路が接続される希釈用ガス取入口、その希釈用ガス取入口よりも下流側に排出水素ガス供給路が接続される排出水素ガス導入口を備えても良い。 かかる場合には、希釈用ガス取入口から供給される希釈用ガスによって、収容器内の排出水素ガスを効率よく収容器の導出部へと移動させることができる。

[0010]

本発明の第1の態様に係る排出水素処理装置において、抑制手段は、収容器を、排出水素がス導入口を含む第1の空間と希釈用がス取入口を含む第2の空間とに区分すると共に、

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希釈用がス取入口から供給される希釈用がスの通過を許容し、排出水素がス導入口から導入される排出水素がスの通過を規制する流動規制部を有する隔壁であっても良い。なお、流動規制部は、隔壁に形成された孔またはスリットであっても良い。かかる場合には、希釈用がス取入口から供給される希釈用がスによって収容器内の排出水素がスを移動させることができる一方で、排出水素がス導入口から導入された排出水素がスが希釈用がス取入口から収容器の外部へ逆流することを防止することができる。

[0011]

本発明の第1の態様に係る排出水素処理装置において、収容器は、流体を導入部から導出部へ導く流路を形成する仕切板を内部に構える箱状体であり、導入部は、流路の最上流域に構えられていても良い。 かかる場合には、収容器内の流体を順次、導入部から導出部へと導くことが容易となる。 あるいは、収容器は、管状体であり、希釈用がス取入口は、管状体の一端に形成され、導出部は管状体の他端に形成されていても良い。 かかる場合には、排出水素処理装置が車両に搭載される場合に、収容器を効率よく配置することがより容易となる。

[0012]

本発明の第1の態様に係る排出水素処理装置において、抑制手段は、希釈用がス供給路に配置されると共に希釈用がス供給路を連通および非連通状態を切り換える弁機構であっても良く、排出水素処理装置はさらに、排出水素がスが間欠的に排出される前に、弁機構によって希釈用がス供給路を非連通状態に切り換える弁機構制御器を備えても良い。がかる場合には、収容器がら希釈用がス供給路への排出水素がスの逆流をより確実に防止することができる。

[0013]

本発明の第1の態様に係る排出水素処理装置において、前記抑制手段は、前記希釈用がス供給路に配置されると共に前記希釈用がス供給路を連通および非連通状態を切り換える弁機構であっても良く、前記排出水素処理装置はさらに、前記排出水素がスが間欠的に排出される前に、前記弁機構によって前記希釈用がス供給路の連通、非連通状態を任意のタイミングで切り換える弁機構制御器を構えても良い。あるいは、前記弁機構によって前記希釈用がス供給路の連通、非連通状態を任意のタイミングにて切り換えても良い。

[0014]

本発明の第1の態様に係る排出水素処理装置によれば、収容器内部への希釈用がスの流量を変動させることにより収容器内に乱流を発生させることができるので、排出水素がスと 希釈用がスとの混合を促進させることができる。

[0015]

本発明の第2の態様は、燃料電池の燃料極側から排出される排出水素がスを希釈する排出水素処理装置を提供する。本発明の第2の態様に係る排出水素処理装置は、排出水素がスを希釈する希釈部と、燃料電池の燃料極側から所定の時間間隔にて排出水素がスを排出する希釈部と、排出水素がスを希釈するための希釈用がスを定常的に希釈部へ供給する希釈用がスた非出水素がスを収容すると共に、排出された排出水素がスを収容すると共に、排出された排出水素がスを利用がス件給手段によって供給される希釈用がスの一部を利用して、収容されている排出水素がス件給手段によって供給される希釈用がスの一部を利用して、収容されている排出水素がス件給手段に必要することを抑制する逆移動抑制手段とを備えることを特徴とする

[0016]

本発明の第2の態様に係る排出水素処理装置によれば、希釈用ガス供給手段によって供給される希釈用ガスの一部を利用して、収容した排出水素ガスの希釈部への移動時間を所定の時間間隔よりも短い時間だけ遅延させる遅延手段を備え、また、遅延手段に収容されている排出水素ガスが希釈用ガス供給手段へ逆移動することを抑制する逆移動抑制手段を備えるので、希釈室を用いることなく簡易な構成にて可燃濃度未満の濃度で水素を大気中に

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放出することができる。

[0017]

本発明の第2の態様に係る排出水素処理装置において、移動手段によって利用される希釈用がスの時間あたりの供給量は、所定の時間間隔に反比例しても良い。所定の時間間隔が短い場合には、希釈用がスの供給量を増加させることによって対応することができる。

[0018]

本発明の第3の態様は、燃料電池の燃料極側から間欠的に排出される排出水素がスを希釈する排出水素処理装置を提供する。本発明の第3の態様に係る排出水素処理装置は、導入部および導出部とを有すると共に、間欠的に排出された排出水素がスの全量を収容器と、燃料電池の燃料極側と収容器とを連通する排出水素がス供給路の水料を定常的に供給する希釈用がス供給路と、収容器の導出部と希釈用がス供給路と、収容器の導出部と希釈用がス供給路と、収容器の導出部と表別にあいて、希釈用がス件給路と、収容器の導入部とを連通するがス導入路と、がス等入路に配置され、がス等入路を連通とで非連通状態のいずれかの状態に切り換える第1の切り替え機構を非連通状態に切り換える制御手段とを備えることを特徴とする。

[0019]

本発明の第3の態様に係る排出水素処理装置によれば、排出水素がスが排出された後に、第1の切り替え機構を非連通状態に切り換えて希釈用がス供給路と収容器の導入部とを連通するがス等入路を非連通状態にするので、排出水素がスの排出当初は、収容器内の排出水素がスはがス導入路を介して希釈用がス供給路へと逆流する。一方、収容器からは、収容されている希釈用がスが排出水素がス排出路から希釈用がス供給路へと排出される。したがって、希釈用がスが希釈用がス供給路へ排出される間も、排出水素がスの希釈を実行することができ、排出された排出水素がスの全量の希釈を完了するまでに要する時間を短縮することができる。さらに、収容器の容積を小さくすることができる。

[0020]

本発明の第3の態様に係る排出水素処理装置はさらに、排出水素がス供給路に配置されていると共に、排出水素がス供給路を間欠的に非連通状態から連通状態に切り換える第2の切り替え機構を構え、制御手段は、第2の切り替え機構が連通状態に切り換えられた後に、第1の切り替え機構を非連通状態に切り換えると共に、第2の切り替え機構が非連通状態に切り換えられた後に、第1の切り替え機構を連通状態に切り換えても良い。

[0021]

本発明の第4の態様は、燃料電池の燃料極側から間欠的に排出される排出水素がスを希釈する排出水素処理装置を提供する。本発明の第4の態様に係る排出水素処理装置は、第1および第2の端部を有すると共に、間欠的に排出された排出水素がスの全量を収容可能な収容器と、燃料電池の燃料極側と収容器の略中央部とを連通する排出水素がス供給路と、収容器の第1の端部と希釈用がス供給路の所定位置とを連通する排出水素がス排出路と、所定位置よりも上流側において、希釈用がス供給路と収容器の第2の端部とを連通するがス導入路とを備えることを特徴とする。

[0022]

本発明の第4の態様に係る排出水素処理装置によれば、排出水素がス供給路が収容器の略中央部に接続されているので、排出水素がスの排出当初は、収容器内の希釈用がスが、がス等入路および排出水素がス排出路を介して希釈用がス供給路へ排出される。したがって、がス等入路にがス等入路の連通および非連通状態を切り換える切り替え手段を備えることなく、収容器内に存在する希釈用がスを速やかに収容器外へ排出して、排出水素がスが排出水素がス排出路へ移動する時間を短縮することができる。したがって、排出された排出水素がスの全量の希釈を完了するまでに要する時間を短縮することができる。

[0023]

本発明の第5の態様は、燃料電池の燃料極側から間欠的に排出される排出水素がスを定常

的に供給される希釈用がスを用いて希釈する排出水素処理装置において、排出水素がスを一時的に収容する収容器を提供する。本発明の第5の態様に係る収容器は、設置時に底面をなす底面部と、前記間欠的に排出された排出水素がスの全量を収容可能であると共に、導入された流体を前記底面部から前記項面部へと流動させる内部構造を有する収容部と、前記排出水素がスあよび前記希釈用がスの一部を前記収容部に導入する導入部と、前記一時的に収容された排出水素がスを前記収容部外へ導出する導出部とを備えることを特徴とする。

[0024]

本発明の第5の態様に係る収容器によれば、導入された流体を底面部から頂面部へと流動させる内部構造を有するので、収容部の容積を効率よく利用して比重の軽い排出水素がスを一時的に収容することができる。

[0025]

本発明の第5の態様に係る収容器において、前記導入部は前記底面部の近傍に配置され、前記導出部は前記項面部の近傍に配置されていても良い。 みかる場合には、底面部近傍に配置された導入部から収容部へと導入された排出水素がスは、同じく底面部近傍に配置された導入部から収容部へと導入された希釈用がスによって、順次、頂面部へと導かれ、頂面部近傍に配置された導出部から収容部外部へと導出される。

[0026]

本発明の第5の態様に係る収容器において、前記導入部は前記項面部の近傍に配置され、前記導出部は前記導入部と対向する前記項面部の近傍に配置され、前記収容部は、前記導入部を介して収容器内部に導入された流体を前記底面部へと導く誘導路を内部に備えても良い。 かかる場合には、導入部の配置位置にかかわらず、導入された排出水素がスおよび希釈用がスを収容部の底面部へと導くことができる。

[0027]

本発明の第5の態様に係る収容器において、前記収容部は、流体を前記底面部から前記頂面部へと導く流路を形成すると共に前記底面部と平行な1つ以上の仕切板を内部に構えても良い。かかる場合には、仕切板によって収容部内部に流体の流路を形成することができるので、収容部の容積を効率よく利用して排出水素がスを一時的に収容することができると共に、希釈用がスによって、収容された排出水素がスを順次、底面部から頂面部へと導くことができる。

[0028]

本発明の第5の態様に係る収容器において、前記各仕切板には、流体の流速が低い場合に排出水素がスの通過を許容する流体通過部が備えられていても良く、前記流体通過部に複数の細孔またはスリットであっても良い。 かかる構成を備えることにより、収容部に導入される排出水素がスを含む流体の流速が高い場合には、排出水素がスは仕切板により形成された流路に従って底面部から頂面部へと順次、流動するので、収容部に収容よれる排出水素がスを画部が低い場合には、排出水素がスは流体通過部で大気中へ放出することができる。一方、収容部に対して、収容器に導入される排出水素がスの流速が高い場合よりも低減することができる。したがって、収容器に導入される排出水素がス量が少なくなるにつれて収容器から排出される排出水素がス濃度を少量の希釈がスで十分低減させることができる。

[0029]

本発明の第6の態様は、燃料電池の燃料極側から間欠的に排出される排出水素がスを希釈する排出水素処理装置を提供する。本発明の第6の態様に係る排出水素処理装置は、本発明の第5の態様に係るいずれかの収容器と、前記燃料電池の燃料極側と前記収容器の導入部とを連通する排出水素がス供給路と、希釈用がスを定常的に供給する希釈用がス供給路と、前記収容器の導出部と前記希釈用がス供給路の所定位置とを連通する排出水素がス排出路と、前記所定位置よりも上流側において、前記希釈用がス供給路と前記収容器の導入部とを連通するがス導入路と、前記がス導入路に対する前記収容器内の排出水素がスの流

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出を抑制する抑制手段とを備えることを特徴とする。

[0030]

本発明の第6の態様に係る排出水素処理装置は、本発明の第5の態様に係るいずれかの収容器を備えるので、排出水素がスを処理するにあたり、本発明の第5の態様に係る収容器によりもたらされる作用効果を奏することができる。

[0031]

本発明の第7の態様は、燃料電池の燃料極側から間欠的に排出される排出水素がスを希釈する排出水素処理装置を提供する。本発明の第7の態様に係る排出水素処理装置は、第1および第2の端部、並びに前記第1および第2の端部からの距離が略等しい排出水素導入部を有すると共に、前記間欠的に排出された排出水素がスの全量を収容可能な収容器と、前記排出水素導入部と前記燃料電池の燃料極側とを連通する排出水素がス供給路と、希釈用がス供給路の前記第1の端部と前記系釈用がス供給路の前記第2の端部とを連通するかス導入路において、前記希釈用がス供給路と前記収容器の前記第2の端部とを連通するかス導入路とを備えることを特徴とする。

[0032]

本発明の第7の態様に係る排出水素処理装置によれば、第1および第2の端部からの距離が略等しい排出水素導入部を有する収容器を構えるので、排出水素がスが収容器外部へ排出されるために必要な移動距離が短縮され、排出された排出水素がスの等入当初は排出水素がスの希釈が許容され、大気中に排出される排出水素がス濃度のピークを低減することができるので、排出水素処理装置に導入される排出水素がス量が少なくなるにつれて、排出水素がスを希釈するための希釈がス流量を低減し、希釈がスを供給するために要求される動力を低減することができる。また、排出水素処理装置から排出される排出水素がス濃度を少量の希釈がスで十分低減させることができる。

[0033]

本発明の第7の態様に係る排出水素処理装置において、前記収容器は、導入された流体の流路を規定する複数の仕切板を有し、前記排出水素導入部近傍における仕切板の間隔は、前記第1および第2の端部近傍における仕切板の間隔よりも広くても良い。あるいは、前記収容器は、前記第1および第2の端部近傍に、導入された流体の流路を規定する複数の仕切板を有しても良い。かかる構成を備えることにより、排出水素導入部近傍では排出水素がスの希釈(拡散)をさらに許容して排出水素処理装置から排出される水素濃度のピーク値をさらに低減し、第1および第2端部近傍では排出水素がスの流動を規制して収容器外部へと排出することができる。

[0034]

上記本発明の第1ないし第4、第6および第7の態様に係る排出水素処理装置、および本発明の第5の態様に係る収容器は、上記態様の他に、方法の態様によっても実現され得る

[0035]

【発明の実施の形態】

以下、図面を参照しつついくつかの実施例に基づいて本発明に係る排出水素処理装置について説明する。

・第1の実施例:

図1 および図2 を参照して第1 の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置を含む燃料電池システムの構成について説明する。図1 は第1 の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置を含む燃料電池システムの概略構成を示すプロック図である。図2 は第1 の実施例に係る排出処理装置に適用され得る他の収容器を示す説明図である。

[0036]

燃料電池システムは、大別して、水素を燃料として電力を生成する燃料電池10、燃料電池から排出される排出水素を希釈化して大気中に放出する排出水素処理装置20とを備え

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ている。第1の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置20は、燃料電池10から排出される排出水素がスを処理するに際して、排出水素がスが間欠的に排出されることに着目し、間欠時間の間に排出水素がスの全量を徐々に大気中に放出することによって大気中に放出される水素濃度を水素の可燃濃度未満に抑制することを特徴とする。

[0037]

燃料電池10は、例えば、固体高分子膜型の燃料電池であり、固体高分子膜11を挟んで、空気が供給される空気極12と水素が供給される燃料極18とを備えている。燃料電池10の燃料極18に供給された水素は固体高分子膜11上の触媒により水素イオンと電荷とに分離される。水素イオンは固体高分子膜11を通過して空気極12に移動し、一方、分離された電荷は外部回路を介して空気極12に移動する。空気極12では、供給された空気(酸化剤として作用する酸素)、固体高分子膜11を介して空気極12に到達した水素イオン、電荷が反応して水が生成される。

[0038]

空気極12にはエアコンプレッサ14によって加圧された空気が空気供給管40を介して供給され、空気極12にて使用された空気(排出空気)は空気排出管41(希釈用ガス供給路)を介して大気中に放出される。なお、排出空気は、燃料電池10の運転中、常時、空気排出管41中を流動している。

[0039]

燃料極13には水素貯蔵器15において加圧状態下で貯蔵されている水素が水素供給管42を介して供給される。燃料極13にて消費されなかった水素は、排出水素がスとして、水素排出管(排出水素がス供給路)43を介して排出水素処理装置20に供給される。水素排出管43には、水素排出管43を連通および非連通状態のいずれかに切り換える制御弁50が配置されており、排出水素処理装置20への排出水素がスの流動が制御される。

水素排出管43には、制御弁50よりも燃料電池10寄りの位置に水素循環管44が接続されている。水素供給管42を介して水素貯蔵器15から供給された水素は、燃料極13において全量は消費されない。そこで、一般的には、消費されなかった水素を再度、燃料極13に投入し、消費された水素分に相当する新規水素を投入することが行われている。本実施例では、通常は、制御弁50が非連通状態に切り替えられており、燃料極13からは、通常は、制御弁50が非連通状態に切り替えられており、燃料極13から排出された排出水素がスは、循環用ポンプ16によって水素循環管44を介して燃料極13に再投入される。水素貯蔵器15からは、消費された水素の分圧に相当する新規水素が燃料極13に供給される。なお、水素循環管44には、水素貯蔵器15から供給される水素の水素循環管44への流入(逆流)を防止するための逆止弁51が備えられている。

[0041]

通常、排出水素ガスには、未使用水素の他に、空気極12から固体高分子膜11を介して燃料極13に透過した生成水、窒素等の不純物が含まれている。かかる不純物を含む排出水素ガスを繰り返し燃料極13に投入すると、燃料極13における水素濃度が低下し、燃料電池10の発電効率が低下してします。そこで、一定の時間間隔で、制御弁50を連通状態に切り換え、燃料極13のガスを水素で置換する処理が実行される。制御弁50は、例えば、30秒に一度、2秒間連通状態に切り換えられる。

[0042]

排出水素処理装置20は、水素排出管48を介して間欠的に排出された排出水素がスの全量を大気中へ放出するために要する時間を遅延させるための装置であり、例えば、図1に示すように、間欠的に排出された排出水素がスの全量を収容可能な箱状体の収容器21を構えている。あるいは、図2に示すように間欠的に排出された排出水素がスの全量を収容可能な管状の収容器21。を備えても良い。図1では、収容器21を平面断面図にて表している。収容器21は、排出水素がスを導入する導入部21の内部には、排出水素がスを導入部21の内部には、排出水素がスを導入部21の内部には、排出水素がスを導入部21の内部には、排出水素がスを導入部21の大ち導出部216に向けて順次、流動させるように仕切板22が備えられている。すなわち、導入部21のが上流側となり、導出部216が下流側となって、導入部21のから収容

器21に導入された液体は、導入された順に導出部216から排出される。

[0043]

収容器 2 1 の導入部 2 1 & には、排出水素がス導入口 2 3、排出水素がス導入口 2 3 よりも上流側に排出空気取入口 2 4 がそれぞれ構えられている。排出水素がス導入口 2 3 には水素排出管 4 3 が接続され、排出空気取入口 2 4 には空気排出管 4 1 から分岐した排出空気供給管 4 5 が接続される。一方、収容器 2 1 の導出部 2 1 6 には、導出部 2 1 6 が接続される。一方、収容器 2 1 の導出部 2 1 6 には、導出部 2 1 6 が接続されており、導出部 2 1 6 が接続されており、導出部 2 1 6 が接続されており、準出部 2 1 6 が接続されている。なお、排出空気供給管 4 5 は、排出水素がス排出管 4 6 が接続されている末端位置(所定位置)よりも上流側において空気排出管 4 1 と接続されているので、排出空気供給管 4 5 を介して収容器 2 1 に供給される排出空気中には排出水素がスは含まれていない。

[0044]

排出水素ガス導入口23と排出空気取入口24との間には、収容器21を排出水素ガス導入口23を含む第1の空間と排出空気取入口24を含む第2の空間とに区分すると共に、収容器21内に供給された排出水素ガスが排出空気供給管45へと逆流することを抑制、防止する抑制手段として隔壁30が配置されている。隔壁30は、排出空気取入口24から供給される排出空気の流速以下の流速を有する流体のみを通過させる流動規制部31を有している。

[0045]

図1、図3~図5を参照して、第1の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置20における排出水素がスの希釈の原理について説明する。図3~図5は、排出水素処理装置20(収容器21)における排出水素がスの流動の様子を模式的に示す平面断面図である。

[0046]

第1の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置20では、収容器21は6リットルの容積を有し、 1000リットル/分の流速で排出空気が空気排出管41内を流動し、6リットル/2秒の流速で排出水素がスが収容器21内に供給され、30秒間隔で2秒間にわたり制御弁50が連通状態に切り換えられる。収容器21に供給すべき排出空気の流速は、置換すべき排出水素がス量と制御弁50が非連通状態にある間欠時間によって決定されが、収容器21を小型化するためには、収容器21の容量と置換されるべき排出水素がス量とがほぼっ致していることが好ましく、本実施例では一致している。

[0047]

30秒に一度、制御弁50か2秒間にわたり連通状態に置かれると、燃料極13側の排出水素がスは、排出水素がス導入口23を介して収容器21内に導入され、図3に示すように収容器21内は導入された排出水素がスによって満たされる。このとき、一時的に収容器21の第1の空間(排出水素がス導入口23を含む空間)の圧力が増大するため、隔壁30の流動規制部31を介した収容器21の第2の空間(排出空気取入口24を含む空間)がよび排出空気供給管45への排出水素がスの流動(逆流)が懸念される。これに対して、本実施例では、排出水素がスの流動は規制し、排出空気の流動は許容するように流動規制部31の圧力損失を設定しているので、収容器21に導入された排出水素がスが排出空気供給管45へと逆流することはない。

[0048]

本実施例では、制御弁50が非連通状態に置かれている30秒間に収容器21内に6リットルの排出空気を供給する必要があるため、少なくとも12リットル/分の流速で排出空気が排出空気供給管45から収容器21内に供給されなければならない。一方、排出水素がスは、6リットル/2秒、すなわち、180リットル/分の流速で収容器21内に導入される。したがって、流動規制部31における圧力損失は、約12リットル/分程度の流速を有する流体の通過を許容するように設定されていれば良い。

[0049]

連通状態にある制御弁50が非連通状態に置かれると、図4および図5に示すように、排

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出空気取入口24から導入された排出空気が隔壁30の流動規制部31を通過して、排出水素がスを導出部21bに向けて順次、移動させる(押し出す)。やがて、収容器21内の全ての排出水素がスが排出空気によって置換される。

[0050]

導出部 2 1 6 から排出された排出水素ガスは、排出水素ガス排出管 4 6 を介して、空気排出管 4 1 の大気開放端近傍(所定位置)に排出される。空気排出管 4 1 に排出された排出水素ガスは、空気排出管 4 1 を流れる排出空気によって希釈され、大気中に放出される。 【 0 0 5 1 】

本実施例に係る排出水素処理装置20では、流動規制部31を有する隔壁80を備えることにより、収容器21内の排出水素がスの排出空気供給管45および空気排出管41への逆流を抑制、防止している。したがって、空気排出管41を流動する排出空気中における水素濃度は0%であり、1000リットル/分の流速で空気排出管41から大気中に排出される排出空気における水素濃度は、最大でも1.2%程度となる。この結果、排出空気における水素濃度を、水素の可燃範囲の下限である4%未満の濃度に抑えることができる

[0052]

隔壁30が有する流動規制部31の形状について図6~図9を参照して説明する。図6は排出水素処理装置が構える流動規制部の第1の形態を示す説明図である。図7は排出水素処理装置が構える流動規制部の第2の形態を示す説明図である。図8は排出水素処理装置が構える流動規制部の第3の形態を示す説明図である。図9は排出水素処理装置が構える流動規制部の第4の形態を示す説明図である。

[0053]

流動規制部31の形状としては、図6に示す孔32(オリフィス)、図7に示す単一スリット33、図8に示す複数スリット34、図9に示すメッシュ孔35が例示としてあげられる。排出空気取入口24から供給される排出空気によって、収容器21内の排出水素がスを順次、導出部216から押し出す(排出させる)観点からは、排出水素がスの流路断面に均一に排出空気が行き渡ることが好ましく、例えば、図9に示すメッシュ孔35を備える隔壁30が好適である。なお、図6から図9の例では、隔壁30は矩形形状であるが、収容器21の流動断面に応じて円形、三角形等の形状が適宜取られ得ることは言うまでもなり。

[0054]

以上説明したように、第1の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置20によれば、燃料電池10から排出される排出水素がスの全量を収容可能な収容器21を備え、燃料電池10の空気極12から排出される排出空気を利用して収容器21内の排出水素がスを順次、収容器21から排出させると共に、排出水素がスを希釈することができる。したがって、排出水素を無なるための大一ナを備えることなく、排出水素がスを希釈した後に、大気中に放出することができる。第1の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置20は、希釈室を備える必要がないので、特に、搭載スペースの制約が大きい車両等を含む移動体に好適である。

[0055]

第1の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置20は、収容器21内に排出水素がスを導入する排出水素がス導入□23と排出空気を取り入れる排出空気取入□24との間には、排出空気の流動は許容するが排出水素がスの流動は規制する流動規制部31を有する隔壁30を備えている。したがって、空気極12から排出される排出空気を利用して収容器21内の排出水素がスを順次、収容器21から排出させる際にも、収容器21内の排出水素がスが排出空気取入□24を介して空気排出管41へと逆流することはなく、大気中に排出される水素濃度をより低減することが可能になると共に、大気中に排出される水素濃度の変動を抑制することができる。

[0056]

第1の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置20によれば、制御弁等の動的な流動規制手段を用

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いることなく、収容器 2 1 内の排出水素ガスが排出空気取入口 2 4 を介して空気排出管 4 1 へと逆流することを防止することができる。また、空気極 1 2 から排出される排出空気を用いて排出水素ガスを希釈するので、排出水素処理装置 2 0 のために、新たに希釈用のガスを供給するためのプロア等を備える必要がないという利点もある。

[0057]

・第2の実施例:

図10 および図11 を参照して第2の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置60 について説明する。図10 は第2の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置60の概略構成図である。図11 は第1 電磁弁 および第2 電磁弁の動作タイミングを示すタイムチャートである。なお、燃料電池システムの概略構成は第1の実施例において説明した燃料電池システムと同様であるから、同一の構成要素には同一の符号を付してその説明を省略する。また、図10中、収容器61は平面断面図にて表されており、実線は排出空気の流れを、破線は排出水素がスの流れを表す。

[0058]

第2の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置60は、箱状の収容器61、収容器61内部における液体の流れを規制する仕切板62を備えている。収容器61には水素排出管43を介して排出水素が供給され、水素排出管43には排出水素がスを間欠的に収容器61へ導入させる第1の電磁弁52が備えられている。収容器61内の排出水素がスは、排出水素がスは、排出水素がスは、排出水素がスは、排出を気が供給され、排出空気供給管45には器61には排出空気供給管45を介して、排出空気が供給され、排出空気供給管45には、収容器61内の排出水素がスの逆流を防止する第2の電磁弁53が備えられている。第1および第2の電磁弁52、53は、図示しない制御装置によって弁の開閉動作が制御されている。

[0059]

第2の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置60は、収容器61内に排出水素がスの全量を収容し、空気排出管41を流れる排出空気によって、排出水素がスを希釈する点で第1の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置20と一致する。一方、第2の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置60は、隔壁30に代えて、第2の電磁弁53によって収容器61内の排出水素がスが排出空気供給管45、空気排出管41へと逆流することを防止する点で、第1の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置20と相違する。

[0060]

第1 および第2の電磁弁52、53の開弁、閉弁タイミングは図11に示すとおりである。すなわち、排出水素がスの排出空気供給管45、空気排出管41への逆流を防止する第2の電磁弁53は、排出水素がスを収容器61内に間欠的に導入する第1の電磁弁52の開弁タイミングよりも前に閉弁され、第1の電磁弁52の閉弁タイミングよりも後に開弁される。この結果、収容器61内へ排出水素がスが導入される際には、既に第2の電磁弁53は閉弁される。したがって、排出水素がスの導入が完了した後に第2の電磁弁53が開弁される。したがって、排出水素がスの導入により収容器61内の圧力が一時的に上昇した場合であっても、図10に示すとおり排出水素がスは排出空気供給管45、空気排出管41へと逆流しない。

[0061]

以上説明したように、第2の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置60によれば、収容器61内への排出水素がスの導入タイミングに合わせて、第2の電磁弁53の閉弁および開弁タイミングが決定されているので、排出水素がスの排出空気供給管45、空気排出管41への逆流を防止することができる。したがって、排出水素がス排出管46よりも上流側における空気排出管41内の水素濃度を0%とすることができ、排出水素がスの希釈率を安定させることができると共に、空気排出管41の開放端から排出される水素濃度を低減させることができる。

[0062]

また、排出空気供給管45の連通および非連通を切り換える手段として、動作が受動的で

ある逆止弁(負圧式逆止弁)ではなく、能動的に連通および非連通状態を切り換えることができる第2の電磁弁53を用いた。負圧式逆止弁を用いた場合には、収容器61内への排出水素がスの導入に伴い発生する負圧によって作動したり、排出水素がスに含まれる生成水によって弁の封止状態が変動するおそれがある。したがって、排出水素がスの排出空気供給管45、空気排出管41への逆流をより確実に防止することができる。

[0063]

・第2の実施例の変形例:

上記第2の実施例では、第2の電磁弁53は、閉弁(非連通)された後は、再び開弁(連通)されるまで閉弁状態に維持されるが、図12に示すように任意のタイミングにて連通、非連通状態(開弁、閉弁)を間欠的に繰り返してもよい。図12は第2の実施例の変形例における第1電磁弁および第2電磁弁の動作タイミング、収容器61に導入される排出水素がス流量、希釈用がス流量、収容器61から排出される排出水素がス量を示すタイムチャートである。

[0064]

本変形例では、図12に示すように、第2の電磁弁53は、排出水素ガスを収容器61内に間欠的に導入する第1の電磁弁52の開弁タイミングよりも前に閉弁された後、第1の電磁弁52が開弁されている状態にて再び開弁され、その後、短い周期にて閉弁、開弁される。第2の電磁弁53が間欠的に開閉された結果、排出空気供給管45を流れる希釈用ガスの流量、排出水素ガスが間欠いに開閉される排出水素ガスの流量は図12に示すように短時間に変動する。この結果、収容器61内には乱流が発生し、収容器61内に導入された排出水素ガスと希釈用ガスとの混合が促進される。

[0065]

排出水素がス排出管46からは、希釈用がスと混合された排出水素がスが排出されるので、空気排出管41における排出水素がスの希釈を促進させることができる。また、本変形例では、第1の電磁弁52が開弁されている期間に第2の電磁弁53が開弁されるので、排出水素がスは排出水素供給管45から逆流する。しかしなから、第2の電磁弁53の開閉状態を適切に制御して、排出空気供給管45を逆流する排出水素がス量を調整することにより、空気排出管41の開放端から排出される水素濃度を可燃濃度未満に抑制することができると共に、収容器61内部の排出水素がスを早期に排出させることができる。

[0066]

・第3の実施例:

図13~図15を参照して第3の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置70について説明する。図13は第3の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置70の概略構成図である。図14は第1電磁弁あよび第2電磁弁の動作タイミングを示すタイムチャートである。図15は空気排出管の開放端から排出される水素濃度の時間変化を示す説明図である。なお、第3の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置60と同一の構成を構えるので、各構成要素には同一の符号を付してその説明を省略する。また、図13中、収容器61は平面断面図にて表されており、実線は排出空気の流れを、破線は排出水素ガスの流れをそれぞれ表す。

[0067]

第3の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置70は、収容器61内に排出水素がスの全量を収容し、空気排出管41を流れる排出空気によって、排出水素がスを希釈する点で第2の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置60と一致する。一方、第3の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置70は、収容器61内の排出水素がスが排出空気供給管45、空気排出管41へと一部逆流することを許容する点で、第2の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置60と相違する。なお、第1および第2の電磁弁52、53は、図示しなり制御装置によって弁の開閉動作が制御されている。

[0068]

第 1 および 第 2 の 電磁 弁 5 2 、 5 3 の 關 弁 、 閉 弁 タイミング は 図 1 4 に 示 す と お り で あ る 。 す な わ ち 、 排 出 水 素 ガ ス の 排 出 空 気 供 給 管 4 5 、 空 気 排 出 管 4 1 へ の 逆 流 を 抑 制 す る 第

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2の電磁弁53は、排出水素がスを収容器61内に間欠的に導入する第1の電磁弁52の開弁タイミングよりも後に開弁され、第1の電磁弁52の閉弁タイミングよりも後に開弁される。この結果、収容器61内へ排出水素がスが導入される際には、未起第2の電磁弁53は開弁状態にあり、図13に示すように、収容器61内に導入された排出水素がスの一部は排出空気供給管45を介して空気排出管41へと逆流する。一方、第2の電磁弁53の開弁時期は、収容器61内への排出水素がスの導入が完了した後である。

[0069]

水素排出管43から収容器61へ排出水素がスの導入が開始されるタイミングでは、先の置換サイクルで排出水素がスと置換された排出空気が収容器61内に収容されている。したがって、排出水素がス排出管46から排出されるがスには水素は含まれてあらず、空気排出管41を流れる排出空気に水素が含まれていても、排出水素がス排出管46から排出されるがス(排出空気)によって希釈される。この結果、当初、空気排出管41の開放端には、空気排出管41へ逆流した排出水素がスに起因する水素が現れる(図15中L1)。時間の経過と共に排出水素がス排出管46からは排出水素がスが排出されるようになり、空気排出管41の開放端には、排出水素がス排出管46からの排出水素がスの排出に起因する水素が現れ始める(図15中L2)。

[0070]

ただし、第2の電磁弁53が開弁された後は空気排出管41を流れる排出空気中の水素濃度は徐々に0%となるので、排出水素がス排出管46から排出された排出水素がスは、空気排出管41を流れる排出空気によって希釈される。この結果、図15中L3で表されるように、空気排出管41へ逆流した排出水素がスと排出水素がス排出管46からの排出水素がスの双方を合わせても、水素濃度は規定値(4%)を超えることはない。すなわち、空気排出管41に排出水素がスが逆流している状態であっても、あるいは、空気排出管41に排出水素がスが逆流している状態であっても、空気排出管41の開放端から排出される排出空気中にあける水素濃度は常に、4%未満に抑制される。

[0071]

さらに、空気排出管41に排出水素がスを逆流させない場合(図15中L4)と比較して、空気排出管41に排出水素がスを逆流させた場合(図15中L3)には、収容器61内の排出水素がスの全量の希釈を完了するまでの時間が短縮されることが図15のグラフから明らかになる。

[0072]

以上説明したように、第3の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置70によれば、水素排出管43から収容器61への排出水素がスの導入が開始されるタイミングでは、空気排出管41へ排出水素がスを逆流させるので、収容器61内に導入された排出水素がスを希釈後、迅速に大気中に放出することができる。

[0073]

すなわち、収容器 6 1 への排出水素がスの導入開始時には、収容器 6 1 から排出水素がスの導入開始時には、収容器 6 1 から排出水素がスの排出管 4 1 へ排出立れるかスは排出空気であり、空気排出管 4 1 からは排出空気であり、空気排出管 4 1 からは排出空気だけが排出され、排出水素がスの希釈は未だ実行されていない。したがって、排出水素がスが収容器 6 1 から排出されるまでの時間は無駄な時間である。これに対して、第 3 の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置 7 0 では、収容器 6 1 への排出水素がスの導入開始時には、空気排出管 4 1 へ排出水素がスを逆流させて、収容器 6 1 から排出される排出空気によって排出水素がス排出下ることができる。この結果、排出水素がスが排出水素がス排出管 4 6 を介して空気排出管 4 1 へ移動するまでの時間を短縮することができる。

[0074]

また、予め空気排出管41への逆流を見込んでいるので、より小さい収容器61を用いることができる。例えば、空気排出管41を流れる空気流量が1000リットル/分、元の収容器の容量が6リットルならば、収容器61の容量を5リットル程度とすることができ

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[0075]

この他、第3の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置70によれば、第2の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置60と同様の効果を得ることができる。

[0076]

・第4の実施例:

[0077]

. 第1の内部構成を有する収容器211:

図16に示すように、収容器211は、搭載時に底面をなす底面部2110、頂面をなす頂面部211bを備えている。燃料電池(図示しない)から排出された排出水素がスを収容器内部に導入する排出水素がス等入口211cあよび収容器内部にて排出水素がスを押し出す希釈用がスを導入する排出空気取入口211dは底面部2110近傍に配置されている。収容器211に一時的に収容されていた排出水素がスおよび希釈用がスを収容器211の外部へ排出する排出水素がス排出口211eは頂面部211b近傍に配置されている。すなわち、収容器211は、導入された排出水素がスおよび希釈用がスを底面部21

[0078]

[0079]

. 第2の内部構成を有する収容器212:

図17に示すように、収容器212は、搭載時に底面をなす底面部212の、頂面をなす頂面部2126を備えている。燃料電池(図示しない)から排出された排出水素がスを収容器内部に導入する排出水素がス等入口212c および収容器内部にて排出水素がスを押し出す希釈用がスを導入する排出空気取入口212dは頂面部2126近傍に配置されている。収容器212に一時的に収容されていた排出水素がスおよび希釈用がスを収容器2

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12の外部へ排出する排出水素ガス排出口212eは、排出水素ガス排出口212cおよび希釈用ガス排出口212dと対向する頂面部212b近傍に配置されている。

[0080]

[0081]

誘導路における排出水素がスの拡散(希釈)を防止して、排出水素がスを底面部2126の水平方向に行き渡らせるためには、誘導路の路幅は狭りことが好ましり。また、第1の内部構成を有する収容器211の同様にして多孔状の仕切板を構えても良り。かかる場合には、より一層、排出水素がスを収容器212の水平方向(幅方向)へと十分に行き渡らせることができると共に、多孔状の仕切板を通過することにより、希釈用がスの流速が均一化されるので、両がスの混合をさらに抑制することができる。

[0082]

. 第3の内部構成を有する収容器213:

図18に示すように、収容器213は、搭載時に底面をなす底面部213の、頂面をなす頂面部2136を構えている。燃料電池(図示しない)がら排出された排出水素がスを収容器内部に導入する排出水素がス等入口213cおよび収容器内部にて排出水素がスを押し出す希釈用がスを導入する排出空気取入口213cは底面部2135近傍に配置されている。収容器213c中時的に収容されていた排出水素がスおよび希釈用がスを収容器213の外部へ排出する排出水素がス排出口213cおよび希釈用がス排出口2136近傍に配置されている。

[0083]

[0084]

. 第4の内部構成を有する収容器214:

収容器214は、基本的には第3の内部構成を有する収容器213と同様の構成を備えて

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いるが、仕切板214斤として多孔状のものを構えている点で相違する。以下の説明では、第3の内部構成を有する収容器213と同様の構成要素については、符号の数字部分についてのみ213の符号に代えて214の符号を用い、その説明を省略する。

[0085]

図19~図21を参照して、多孔状の仕切板214年を構えることにより得られる作用効果について説明する。多孔状の仕切板214年は、仕切板214年に対して平行に流れる流体の速度が高い場合には、流体が仕切板214年に対して垂直に通過することを許容する。したがって、排出水素がス流速が高い(流量が多い)場合、すなわち、始動時およびアイドル時を除く燃料電池の負荷運転時には、仕切板214年の多孔部分は機能せず、排出水素がスは多孔部分を通過して移動しない(図19参照)。したがって、第3の内部構成を有する収容器213と同様の作用効果を得ることができる。

[0086]

一方、始動時およびアイドル時といった排出水素がスの流速が低い場合(流量が少ない)場合には、仕切板2146の多孔部分は機能し、排出水素がスは多孔部分を通過して底面部214a から頂面部214b へと移動する。すなわち、浮力に起因する水素の垂直方向(上方)への移動速度を無視することができないほど排出水素がスの流速が低い場合には、排出水素がスの水素は水平方向のみならず上方へも移動する。したがって、少なくとも排出水素がスの一部は仕切板2146を通過して、収容器214にて希釈される(収容器214内に拡散する)(図20参照)。

[0087]

第4の内部構成を構える収容器 2 1 4 によれば、図2 1 に示すように、排出水素がス量が収容器 2 1 4 における希釈化を許容するほど少なり場合には、排出水素がスの仕切板 2 1 4 年の通過を許容する。したがって、排出水素がスは、収容器 2 1 4 内部にて予めを希釈された後に、再度、空気排出管を流れる希釈用がスによって希釈されるので空気排出管を流れる希釈用がスによって希釈されるので空気排出管を流れる希釈用がスによって希釈されるので空気排出管の開放端から排出される水素濃度のピーク値を低減することができる。これに対して、非出水素がスは収容器内部にて希釈されないため、排出水素がスの流速にかかわらず、排出水素排出口から排出される水素濃度のピーク値はほご一定である。すなわち、収容器 2 1 4 は、時間をかけて低い濃度の水素を大気中に放出することができる。この結果、アイドル時等の排出水素がス濃度が低い条件下で、希釈がス流量を少なくすることが可能となり、希釈がスを供給するために必要な動力を低減することができる。

[0088]

・第5の実施例:

第2 および第3 の実施例では、第2 の電磁弁5 3 を用いて空気排出管4 1 への排出水素がスの逆流を防止、調整していたが、図22 に示すように第2 の電磁弁5 3 を備えることなく、空気排出管4 1 への排出水素がスの逆流を抑制するようにしても良い。図2 2 は第5 の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置 8 0 は、ほぼ左右対称な収容器 8 1 を備えており、水素排出管4 3 は収容器 8 1 の略中央に接続されている。かかる構成を備えることにより、排出水素がスが収容器 8 1 に導入される 2 秒間の間に、収容器 8 1 内の排出空気が排出空気が排出を気が、排出を4 5 および排出水素がスが収容器 8 1 に導入されたのちは、速やかに排出なれる。したがって、排出水素がスが収容器 8 1 に導入されたのちは、速やかに排出すれる。したがって、排出水素がスが収容器 8 1 に導入されたのちは、速やかに排出水素がスを空気排出管4 1 に導出することが可能となり、希釈が完了するまでに要する時間を短縮することができる。

[0089]

・第6の実施例:

上記各実施例では、収容器に排出水素がスを一時的に収容し、希釈用がスの一部を収容器 に導入することで収容された排出水素がスを順次、収容器の一側から他側へと押し出して 収容器外に排出する。また、排出水素がスは、原則として排出水素がス排出管から空気排

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出管41に対して排出され、希釈された後、大気中に排出される。これに対して、第6の実施例では、排出水素がス導入当初は排出水素がスの希釈、および排出空気供給管への排出水素がスの逆流を許容する。

[0090]

第6の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置90について図23~図28を参照して説明する。図23は第6の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置の概略構成図であり、収容器は平面断面図にて表されている。図24は希釈用がスの一部を利用して収容された排出水素がスを押し出す場合における収容器内の排出水素がスの移動の様子を示す模式図である。図25は第6の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置90から排出される排出水素機度の時間変化を示す説明図である。図27は第6の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置90から排出される排出水素機度の時間変化を示す説明図である。図27は第6の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置90における、排出水素がス導入時の水素濃度の変化を示す模式図である。図28は第6の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置90における、希釈用がス導入時の水素濃度の変化を示す模式図である。

[0091]

排出水素処理装置90は、箱状の収容器91、収容器91内部における液体の流れを規制して流路を形成する複数の仕切板92を備えている。収容器91の第1の端部911および第2の端部912からの距離が略等しい中央部には、排出水素を供給するための水素排出管93が接続されており、水素排出管93には排出水素がスを間欠的に収容器91の第1の端からとが備えられている。収容器91の第1の端からなで、収容器91の第1の端が接続され、収容器91の第2の端部911側には希釈用がスとしての排出空気の一部を収容器内に導入するための排出空気供給管95の一端が接続されている。排出水素がス排出管94の他端の接続でままります。排出空気供給管95の他端は、排出水素がス排出管94の他端の接続で置よりまた、排出空気供給管95の他端は、排出水素がス排出管94の他端の接続位置よりまた、側において、空気排出管96と接続されている。

[0092]

仕切板 9 2 は収容器 9 2 の第 1 の端部 9 1 1 近傍および第 2 の端部 9 1 2 近傍に配置されており、水素排出管 9 3 が接続されている収容器 9 2 の中央部には配置されていない。この結果、収容器 9 1 の中央部付近では収容器内部に既存の空気を導入された排出水素がスとの混合が許容され、排出水素がスが希釈される。一方、第 1 および第 2 の端部 9 1 1 、9 1 2 近傍では、仕切板 9 2 によって、排出水素がスの拡散(希釈)を規制し、排出水素がスを排出水素がス排出管 9 4 を介して空気排出管 9 6 へと順次導くことができる。また、排出空気供給管 9 5 から供給された排出空気(希釈用がス)を収容器 9 1 の中央部へと導くことができる。

[0093]

本実施例に係る排出水素処理装置90における、収容器91内に導入された排出水素がスの流れについて図25を参照して説明する。水素排出管93から導入された排出水素がスは、仕切板92が配置されておらず広い空間が区画形成されている収容器91の中央部にて既存の空気と混合し、希釈される。水素排出管93は、収容器91の端部911 および第2の端部912からの距離が略等しい中央部に接続されているので、収容器内部に導入され希釈された排出水素がスの1/2は、仕切板92により形成された流路に従い排出空気供給管95へと流動する。本実施例では排出空気供給管95に逆流を防止するためのパルプ(電磁弁53)が配置されていないので、収容器91の圧力が排出空気供給管95の圧力よりも高くなる排出水素がスの導入当初は、排出空気供給管95を近流して空気排出管96へと流動する。

[0094]

本実施例に係る排出水素処理装置90では、常に収容器の一側から他側へと希釈用がスを用いて排出水素がスを押し出す場合と比較して、排出水素がス導入当初における排出水素

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ガスの移動距離は半分となる(図24参照)。特に収容器91の容量に対して1回当たりの排出水素ガス流量が少ない場合には、収容器91内の既存空気を希釈ガスとして有効に用いることができる。したがって、収容器91に一時的に収容された排出水素ガスは、速やかに収容器91の外部へと排出され、収容器91に既存の空気を収容器91外へと排出するために要する時間を半減することができる(図26参照)。また、収容器91に初期に導入された排出水素ガスは、収容器91内の既存の空気によって希釈されているので、排出水素処理装置90から大気中に排出される水素濃度のピーク値を低減することができる(図26参照)。

[0095]

本実施例に係る排出水素処理装置90における収容器91内の濃度変化は図27および図28に示すとおりである。収容器91内に排出水素がスが導入される場合には、収容器91内に導入された排出水素がスは、その一部が収容器91内の既存空気と混合すると共に、収容器91内の既存空気および排出水素がスと空気の混合気を収容器91外へと押し出す。例えば、排出空気流量をM、排出水素がス流量をH、収容器91から排出される水素量をLとすれば、L/(M+H)×100により表される水素濃度(VOI%)が大気中に排出される。

[0096]

一方、収容器 9 1 内に排出水素ガスが導入された後(排出水素ガスの導入タイミング以外の場合)には、収容器 9 1 内の排出水素ガスは、排出空気供給管 9 5 にから収容器 9 1 内に導入される希釈用ガスによって、排出水素ガスは、希釈用ガスによって置換される。例えば、希釈用ガス流量をm、排出空気流量をMとすれば、m/M×1 0 0 により表される水素濃度(VOI%)が大気中に排出される。本実施例に係る排出水素処理装置 9 0 は、燃料電池のいずれの運転条件にあいても、(ん/(M+H)×1 0 0)、(m/M×1 0 0)にて表される水素濃度(VOI%)が可燃範囲未満となるように設計される。

[0097]

また、本実施例に係る排出水素処理装置90によれば、これまで、排出水素ガス導入当初、収容器91内に既存の空気を収容器91外へと排出するために要した時間を半減することができる。

[0098]

また、収容器91内に既存の空気を収容器91外へと排出するために要した時間を排出水素がスを収容器91外へと排出するために利用すると共に、排出水素がス導入当初は、これまで単に収容器91外へと排出していた既存の空気を希釈用がスとして利用することができる。したがって、収容器91内に収容された排出水素がスを速やかに排出水素処理装置90外へと排出することができると共に、排出水素処理装置90から排出される水素濃度のピーク値を低減することができる(図26条照)。

[0099]

この結果、例えば、燃料電池の始動時、アイドル時、負荷運転時といった各運転状態に適切な様々な排出水素がスの排出タイミングに適応して、排出水素がスを収容し、可燃濃度未満の水素濃度にて排出水素がスを大気中に排出することができる。

[0100]

以上、いくつかの実施例に基づき本発明に係る排出水素処理装置を説明してきたが、上記した発明の実施の形態は、本発明の理解を容易にするためのものであり、本発明を限定するものではない。本発明は、その趣旨並びに特許請求の範囲を逸脱することなく、変更、改良され得ると共に、本発明にはその等価物が含まれることはもちろんである。

[0101]

上記実施例では、燃料電池10の空気極12から排出される排出空気を用いて燃料極18 から間欠的に排出される排出水素がスを希釈しているが、別途プロア等を備えて、排出水素がスを希釈するための難燃性がスを空気排出管41または別の希釈用がス供給管に供給してもよい。かかる場合には、プロア等を別途備えなければならないものの、難燃性がス 流量を大きくすることができるので、収容器21、61における排出水素ガスの移動速度 (排出空気供給管45から供給される難燃性ガスの流速)を大きくしても、排出空気排出 管 4 1 (希 釈 用 ガ ス 供 給 管) か ら 排 出 さ れ る ガ ス 中 の 水 素 濃 度 を 4 % 未 満 に 抑 え る こ と が できる。したかって、収容器21、61の容量を小さくすることが可能となり、排出水素 る時間を短縮することができる。

[0102]

上記実施例では、排出水紊ガスを希釈するガスを排出空気と呼んでいるが、この他に、希 釈用ガスと呼ぶこともある。ただし、希釈用ガスの名称が用いられる場合であっても、収 容器21、61では希釈化は実行されず、排出空気排出管41(希釈用ガス供給管)にお いて希釈化は実行される。

[0103]

上記実施例では、収容器21、61として箱状、管状の形態を例に挙げて説明したが、収 容 器 の 形 態 は こ れ ら 形 態 に 限 定 さ れ な い 。 す な わ ち 、 燃 料 極 1 3 か ら 排 出 さ れ 友 排 出 水 素 ガスが大気中に放出されるまでの時間を遅延させることができれば良い。

【図面の簡単な説明】

- 【 図 1 】 第 1 の 実 施 例 に 係 る 排 出 水 素 処 理 装 置 を 含 む 燃 料 電 池 シ ス テ ム の 概 路 構 成 を 示 す プロック図である。
- 【図2】第1の実施例に係る排出処理装置に適用され得る他の収容器を示す説明図である

【図3】排出水素処理装置20(収容器21)における排出水素ガスの流動の様子を模式 的に示す平面断面図である。

【図4】排出水素処理装置20(収容器21)における排出水素ガスの流動の様子を模式 的に示す平面断面図である。

【図5】排出水素処理装置20(収容器21)における排出水素ガスの流動の様子を模式 的に示す平面断面図である。

- 【図6】排出水紊処理装置が備える流動規制部の第1の形態を示す説明図である。
- 【図7】排出水素処理装置が備える流動規制部の第2の形態を示す説明図である。
- 【図8】排出水素処理装置が備える流動規制部の第3の形態を示す説明図である。
- 【図9】排出水素処理装置が備える流動規制部の第4の形態を示す説明図である。
- 【図10】第2の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置60の概略構成図である。
- 【図11】 第1電磁弁および第2電磁弁の動作タイミングを示すタイムチャートである。
- 【図12】第2の実施例の変形例における第1電磁弁および第2電磁弁の動作タイミング 、 収 容 器 6 1 に 導 入 さ れ る 排 出 水 素 ガ ス 流 量 、 希 釈 用 ガ ス 流 量 、 収 容 器 6 1 か ら 排 出 さ れ る排出水素ガス量を示すタイムチャートである。
- 【図13】第3の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置70の概略構成図である。
- 【図14】 第1 電磁弁 および 第2 電磁弁の動作タイミングを示すタイムチャートである。
- 【 図 1 5 】 空 気 排 出 管 の 開 放 端 か ら 排 出 さ れ る 水 素 濃 度 の 時 間 変 化 を 示 す 説 明 図 で あ る 。
- 【図16】収容器の第1の内部構成例および収容器内における排出水素ガスの流動状態を 模式的に示す説明図である。

【図17】収容器の第7の内部構成例および収容器内における排出水素ガスの流動状態を 模式的に示す説明図である。

【図18】収容器の第3の内部構成例および収容器内における排出水素ガスの流動状態を 模式的に示す説明図である。

【図19】収容器の第4の内部構成例および収容器内における流速が高い場合の排出水素 ガスの流動状態を模式的に示す説明図である。

【 図 2 0 】 収 容 器 の 第 4 の 内 部 構 成 例 お よ ひ 収 容 器 内 に お け る 流 速 が 低 い 場 合 の 排 出 水 素 ガスの流動状態を模式的に示す説明図である。

【 図 2 1 】 第 4 の 内 部 構 成 を 備 え る 収 容 器 か ら 排 出 さ れ る 排 出 水 素 濃 度 の 時 間 変 化 を 示 す 説明図である。

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- 【図22】第5の実施例に係る排出水繁処理装置80の概略構成図である。
- 【図23】第6の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置の概略構成図であり、収容器は平面断面図にて表されている。
- 【図24】希釈用ガスの一部を利用して収容された排出水素ガスを押し出す場合における 収容器内の排出水素ガスの移動の様子を示す模式図である。
- 【図25】第6の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置における収容器内の排出水素がスの移動の様子を示す模式図である。
- 【図26】第6の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置90 から排出される排出水素濃度の時間変化を示す説明図である。
- 【図27】第6の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置90における、排出水素ガス導入時の水 10素濃度の変化を示す模式図である。
- 【図28】第6の実施例に係る排出水素処理装置90における、希釈用がス導入時の水素濃度の変化を示す模式図である。

【符号の説明】

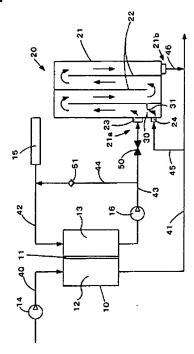
- 10 燃料電池
- 11 高分子膜
- 12 空気極
- 13 燃料極
- 14 エアコンプレッサ
- 15 水素貯蔵器
- 16 循環用ポンプ
- 20 排出水素処理装置
- 2 1 収容器
- 21a 導入部
- 216 導出部
- 2 2 仕切板
- 23 排出水素ガス導入口
- 24 排出空気取入口
- 30 隔壁
- 3 1 流動規制部
- 40 空気供給管
- 41 空気排出管(希釈用ガス供給路)
- 42 水素供給管
- 43 水素排出管(排出水素ガス供給路)
- 44 水素循環管
- 45 排出空気供給管
- 46 排出水素ガス排出管
- 50 制御弁
- 5 1 逆止弁
- 60 排出水素処理装置
- 6 1 収容器
- 70 排出水素処理装置
- 80 排出水素処理装置
- 90 排出水素処理装置
- 9 1 収容器
- 911 第1の端部
- 912 第2の端部
- 9 2 仕切板
- 93 水素排出管
- 94 排出水素ガス排出管

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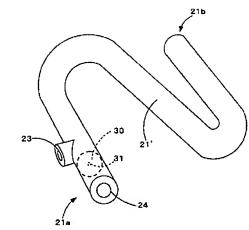
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- 排 出 空 気 供 給 管 空 気 排 出 管 9 5
- 9 6

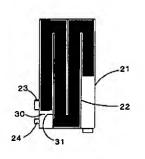
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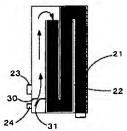
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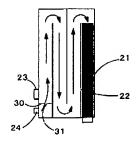
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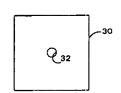


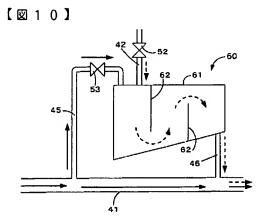


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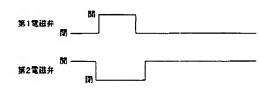


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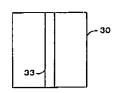




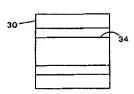
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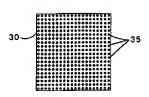
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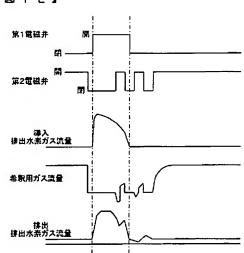
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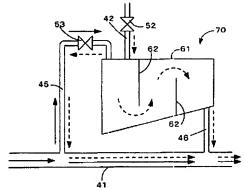


【図 1 2】



帥間

[🛛 1 3]



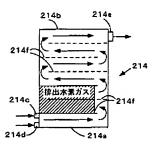
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【図 1 5 】





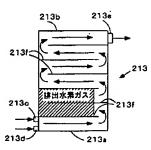
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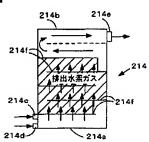
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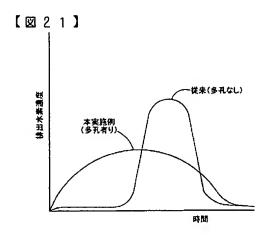
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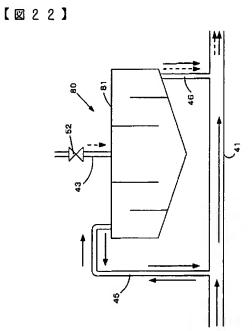
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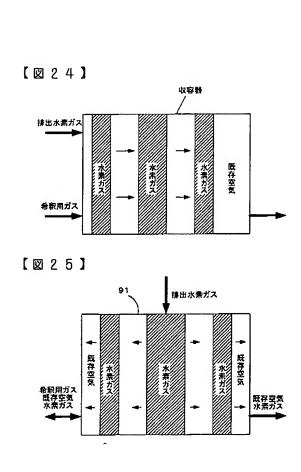
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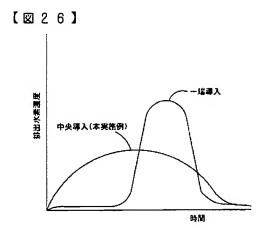


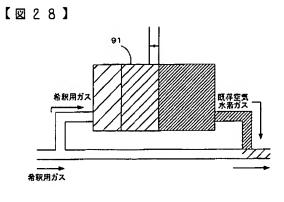




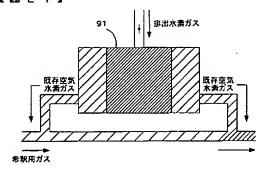
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5H027 AA06 BA09 BA13 BA19 MM03 MM08